

Subscription prices: UK £12.00, Europe £14.00, USA \$24.00. Single copies 50p. The Times is published daily except on Sundays and public holidays. Printed and published by The Times Newspaper Ltd, 1, The Times Building, 4, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5PU. Tel: 01-835 3121. Fax: 01-835 3122. Email: times@times.co.uk

THE TIMES

EDUCATION
TIMES
Pages 14, 15

No 64,221

MONDAY JANUARY 6 1992

40p

Million high earners 'will be hit'

Lamont clashes with Kinnock on 50% tax rate

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR'S tax plans moved to the centre of the political stage last night after Norman Lamont challenged Neil Kinnock to spell out precisely the income level at which he would impose his party's proposed 50 per cent top rate.

The Chancellor's intervention came as the Labour leader repeated a pledge given in his new year message that the planned new higher rate would apply to earnings 'well over' £30,000 a year. Mr Kinnock refused to say, however, whether the threshold would be set at nearer £30,000 or £40,000.

Senior Labour party sources disclosed that initially an incoming Labour government would have only three income tax rates — the current rates of 25 per cent and 40 per cent and the 50 per cent top rate. Earlier plans for a starting rate below 25 per cent have been postponed and policy-makers have decided against introducing intermediate rates.

Mr Lamont, who had earlier admitted that his November forecasts of recovery were proving over-optimistic, claimed that Labour's tax

plans were marked by mud-dle and confusion. Two years ago, Mr Kinnock had said that the planned new top rate would "hit only a small minority of people earning more than £40,000 a year".

As senior Tory officials claimed that Labour's plans could add about £50 a week to the tax bill of people on £40,000 a year and affect an extra one million taxpayers, Mr Lamont asked Mr Kinnock why he had cut his threshold so dramatically.

Mr Kinnock said it was "mischievous and misleading" for the Tories to suggest that everyone now on the top 40 per cent rate (£28,715 for a married man excluding mortgage interest relief; £26,995 for a single person) would have to pay Labour's 50 per cent rate.

Mr Lamont's intervention, a certain-thinger to today's London press conference at which he will claim that basic rate taxpayers will also have to pay more to fund a £35 billion Labour spending programme, marked the opening of intense pre-election campaigning by the three main parties. Chris Patten, the Tory chairman, said that Mr Kinnock's sums did not

add up. "Tomorrow we are going to tell people on all incomes exactly how much taxation they would pay under Labour."

The prime minister is due to make a speech in Oxford tonight and will spend the following two days on a regional tour of the North of England. Mr Kinnock has summoned the shadow cabinet to an all-day strategy meeting in London tomorrow and on Wednesday Labour will relaunch its programme for kickstarting the economy out of recession. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, will unveil plans on Thursday for cutting unemployment by 400,000.

Labour leaders counter-attacked strongly yesterday after Mr Lamont admitted that his forecast of 2.25 per cent economic growth this year would not be realised. "The forecast I made at the time of the election statement I think will prove to have been somewhat over-optimistic," he said on *Frost on Sunday* on TV-am. A revised forecast would be presented in the Budget and the Chancellor hinted at a new projection of 2 per cent. He blamed the economy's sluggishness on the slowdown abroad.

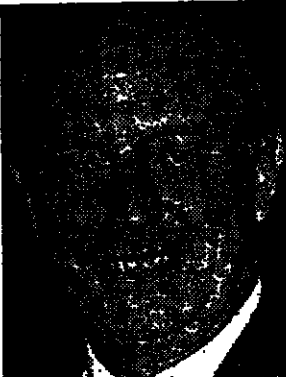
Mr Kinnock said in a BBC radio interview that the government was "in a coma" and was using British membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism as an excuse for doing nothing. He promised an "active government" that would use tax incentives for manufacturing and other measures to stimulate sustainable growth.

John Cunningham, Labour campaigns co-ordinator, rebuked the Chancellor for holding his first 1992 press conference not on the government's plans for recovery but to "repeat Tory lies about Labour's tax proposals".

Tax policy is becoming the main point of difference between the two main parties and the Tories are convinced that, as in the 1987 campaign, it will prove Labour's Achilles' heel.

Mr Kinnock insisted that only 12 per cent of taxpayers would pay more under a Labour government through lifting of the £20,280 ceiling on national insurance contributions of 9 per cent of income. Pointing out that the total tax take, including VAT, had risen since 1979, Mr Kinnock said that he did not want to add to the "tax burden already borne by the great majority of the British people".

No devaluation, page 23



Kinnock: Tories' tax claims "mischievous"

'Charity' resented, page 11
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Gesture of defiance: Dr Kalim Siddiqui, leader of the Muslim parliament, unbowed by his critics yesterday

Muslim leader repeats call to disobey the law

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA

DELEGATES to the Muslim parliament yesterday passed a unanimous motion denouncing Home Office criticisms and reiterated their willingness to disobey laws hostile to their interests. However, moderate Muslims rejected the parliament's claim to represent the Islamic community in Britain.

Speaking on the second day of the Muslim parliament's inaugural session in Kensington, west London, Dr Kalim Siddiqui, leader of the assembly, said that John Patten, the Home Office minister, had behaved like "an overgrown public schoolboy" in describing the Muslim parliament's planned defiance of laws as "nonsense". He said that the refusal of the government to allow voluntary-aided Muslim schools

was discriminatory and unjust. Muslims were entitled to refuse to pay part of their taxes, since their interests were being ignored.

Moderate Muslims quickly joined the fray, launching an attack on the new parliament which, they said, had failed to produce evidence of a popular mandate. Mohammed Riaz, Conservative candidate for Bradford North, said yesterday: "It should be completely ignored as its members are merely a collection of self-appointed publicity-seeking individuals."

Addressing the grievance at the heart of the row, Angela Rumbold, the Home Office minister, said in an interview on Radio 4's *Sunday* programme that Muslim schools might not be able to meet the requirements of the national

curriculum. "Some of the things that are being taught within the national curriculum are not necessarily acceptable to the Muslims, for both boys and girls. Taxpayers must be assured that they are paying for exactly the same standards within a denominational school as they are in an ordinary maintained school."

BR adds 8% to most fares

British Rail's annual fare increases took effect yesterday, raising the average cost of a journey by 7.75 per cent, almost twice the rate of inflation, despite the government's intervention to hold down fares.

The cost of a season ticket rose by 7.9 per cent, while passengers using recently modernised routes faced increases of about 8.9 per cent. page 4

Hunters foil IRA bombers

An IRA plot to bomb one of Britain's largest army camps may have been foiled by a weekend rabbit shooting party at a wood near Blackpool. The five men uncovered a green cotton holdall containing about 6lb of explosive, probably Semtex, less than a mile away from Wootton camp. page 2

Flu arrives

The first cases of a flu virus that has closed schools in some parts of America have been detected in Britain, but the flu epidemic some doctors have predicted for this winter has yet to start. page 22

Cup reward

Wrexham's reward for creating one of the biggest upsets in FA Cup history by beating Arsenal 2-1 on Saturday is an away trip in the fourth round to either West Ham or non-League Farnborough. page 34

Safari victims warned

By ROBIN YOUNG

FOUR British tourists murdered on a safari holiday in southern Angola were travelling through the area against the general advice of the Foreign Office, which warns travellers not to venture far south of the capital, Luanda.

But last night Conal Mackendrick, a brother of one of the victims, said: "My sister and her boyfriend had been extremely careful to contact officials in each country they were to travel through. They only decided to go via

Angola because they had been advised that it would be too dangerous to go through Zaire."

The dead were named as Dr Mercedes Mackendrick and James Pilbeam, her boyfriend, Andrew Chandler and Paul Couchman. They were killed near the town of Quilengues, 600 kilometres south of Luanda and near the Namibian border. Three others travelling with them in a convoy of three Land-Rovers Continued on page 22, col 6

Red tape stalls Russian food aid

By MARK DREVERSEN IN MOSCOW AND DAVID WATTEIN LONDON

BRITISH plans to help hungry Russians were on hold last night with the first plane in the operation preparing to take off from Moscow with its consignment of beef still on board. The destination of the Antonov transport aircraft was unknown but some reports said it was bound for Murrenauk. All further British emergency aid has been stopped for the moment.

The immediate reason for the rejection was unclear but earlier the Moscow authorities had been seeking assurances from the British that the meat was unaffected by BSE or "mad cow disease".

The plane had remained on the tarmac overnight in Moscow while the authorities tried to unravel what the Foreign Office called "technical difficulties". The British side had been seeking written confirmation of receipt of the consignment.

The movement of the food from the aircraft to the consumer is the combined responsibility of the European Community's representatives in Moscow and the Russian government. Last night neither EC representatives in Brussels nor in London could get through to Moscow.

A second plane load was held up at Stansted airport overnight. Yesterday it was unloaded and the meat returned to cold storage in King's Lynn.

British sources said that lack of ground transport at the Moscow end was another possible reason for the blockage.

Germany supplies of medicine, which have largely gone by road, appear to have gone through without a hitch while the Irish were last night loading 2,300 tonnes of beef on the Nikolai Kopernik at Lim-

erick for St Petersburg. They reported no problems.

"The Russians won't accept it because of fears over mad cow disease and want some sort of certification that it is free from the disease," said Paul Hayward, a spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

"But short of our just saying that it is BSE-free we don't know what else to do. This beef is EC intervention stock and was in cold storage to keep prices up throughout the Community, not because there is something wrong with it."

"The EC is happy that it is good beef. It would seem that the Russians still don't trust the West. We are trying to sort out this technical difficulty but until we do all other shipments have been delayed indefinitely."

The first 120-tonne consignment had already been delayed for two days at Stansted airport. The plane finally left on Saturday afternoon, after apparently gaining written entry clearance from the Russian side.

During the delay, British and EC officials in Moscow played down the difficulties in public. But in private, there was considerable frustration with the bureaucratic obstacles, given the self-evident inadequacies of the Russian market. The second Stansted delay can only reinforce British disenchantment with the Russians.

'Charity' resented, page 11
Price paid, page 11
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January 10 is Margaret Thatcher Day

By ANDREW PIERCE

HAVING already had a peninsula named after her, the Falkland Islanders will this week pay Margaret Thatcher the ultimate accolade by dedicating a day to her. Henceforth, January 10 will be known as Margaret Thatcher Day to commemorate her visit to the islands on that date in 1983, seven months after the end of the conflict with Argentina.

The honour is believed to be the first of its kind for a British prime minister. Only days before the big day, even some of Mrs Thatcher's closest aides knew nothing about it. When asked for her reaction last night one of the former prime minister's closest parliamentary supporters said: "Good lord. She hasn't even mentioned it. It is splendid news. I am sure she is absolutely delighted."

The decision was taken by the Falkland Islands legislature as part of the celebrations of the tenth anniversary of

the liberation of the islands on June 14. Mrs Thatcher will be the principal guest at the four-day celebrations which will include a church service, a wreath-laying ceremony at the war memorial, a civic reception and firework displays.

She is expected to visit the Thatcher Peninsula in South Georgia, at the precise spot where task force troops first set foot on Falkland Islands soil. The peninsula was named after her in 1990 after the Royal Geographical Society applied to the Foreign Office.

Members of the legislature thought long and hard about a suitable tribute to Mrs Thatcher, who is the only person to have been given the freedom of the Falkland Islands. They decided that the dedication of a day would be the most lasting memorial.

Sir Rex Hunt, governor of the islands at the time of the Argentine invasion, said: "This is marvellous. Whatever their politics, the Falkland Islanders will

always regard Mrs Thatcher as their saviour and their champion."

He recalled that, to maintain security, strict secrecy surrounded the 1983 visit. "We managed to get the local press to the airport by telling them that some important journalists were coming over from London. They had the shock of their lives, and the story of their lives, when Margaret Thatcher stepped out of the plane with Denis."

"By the time we reached Stanley 20 minutes later it seemed the entire population of the town had spilt on to the streets to greet her. People wanted to shake her hand and speak to her. It was a highly emotional occasion."

Sir Rex, who is also returning to the Falklands for the liberation day celebrations, said: "Margaret Thatcher Day will ensure that the memory of the islanders' saviour lives on forever."

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INSIDE

WINNER



On Friday Will Alsop's "squashed Swiss roll" visitors' centre at Cardiff Bay won a national architecture award. Marcus Binney talks to the avant-garde designer. Page 12

GENIUS



Adam Hann-Bryd stars as a child prodigy in a new movie directed by Jodie Foster. Alice Thomson joined gifted British children and their families at a special preview. Page 13

LEARNERS



Meanwhile, as Britain argues the cost of the reading recovery scheme aimed at helping our less-than-gifted six-year-olds. Education Times studies its success in New Zealand. Page 14

Meet one
of Britain's
most
successful
businessmen
on page 5.

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Radical Tories cut jobs and costs in once far-left Brent

BRENT council in north London, once the bastion of the far-left, has launched a drive to become a model of Conservative efficiency.

The council has just begun a total overhaul of its staff, services and internal organisation designed to put it on a par with the Tories in local government. The controversial race unit will be abolished and hundreds of jobs are expected to go in the next twelve months as Conservatives, supported by a group of Labour defectors, push forward their "Total Quality Programme."

Council departments will be cut from ten to six and senior managers from 33 to 21. Seven of the ten directors of services who were in post last May have left and the council says this will have saved £1.1 million in salaries. By March the council hopes to have introduced a complete "internal market" with departments paying each other for everything from photocopying to making up wages.

Douglas Broom finds Conservatives, with a few Labour rebels, determined to force changes on a London borough famed for spending

Bob Blackman, the council's Conservative leader, says the plan is more radical than anything yet attempted by Tories in local government. It has already been condemned by Labour leader Dorman Long, who says: "They are just trying to set the lowest poll tax in London regardless of the effect it has on local people."

Mr Blackman says that Labour's reign brought the borough close to financial ruin. A dispute with the bin men left the streets piled with rubbish and Labour's last act was to set one of the highest poll taxes in London at £498.

Formidable obstacles remain. Paying the poll tax in Brent is still a minority activity. Only £24 million of the £84 million due this year has been collected and three fifths of residents are behind with pay-

ments. Brent is also owed £42 million in uncollected rates and council rents. The Conservative response has been to publish poll tax defaulters' names and to step up court action. So far 23,575 summonses have been issued and 24,000 liability orders granted by the courts. A telephone chasing service phones defaulters at home and of the 4,216 called so far 1,466 have paid up. Almost £6 million has been collected since the campaign began.

The Tories have also decided to cut the council's £8.4 million annual payment to voluntary groups in the borough after investigations found some serious abuses.

Checks since May showed that the council was paying £17,000 a year to a post office box number in Hackney. That turned out to be for what Mr Blackman calls "an agit-



Nyaga and Amalu-Johnson: Labour rebels who backed Tories

prop" theatre company with no links to Brent. The grant was stopped. In another case councillors found that an ex-offenders hostel was getting £150,000 a year even though it had been shut for a year. The money was recovered. Large charities like Mencap and Mind will be invited to sign three-year contracts for grants in return for agreed services to local people. Other applications will be closely

scrutinised. Enquiries into the council's housing department revealed that some staff were illegally letting council houses for personal profit. So far 200 illegally occupied flats and houses have come to light. Labour councillors have protested at dawn raids to check who is in council property but Mr Blackman said: "Council houses and flats are for those on the waiting list, not people who can buy the key."

The Tories are confident that they can see their revolution through even though their grip on power relies on three and sometimes four former Labour councillors who sit as independents.

After the May 1990 elections the council was hung with no party in control until May last year when two Labour members Nkechi Amalu-Johnson and Poline Nyaga resigned the Labour whip and formed the Democratic Labour Group.

Now the Tories are supported by a new Independent group comprising Mrs Nyaga and two former Labour councillors Harshad Barot and Judith Harper with Mrs Amalu-Johnson voting with them on some issues.

"To be a senior councillor in Brent you need to have the skin of a rhinoceros, the agility of a monkey and the speed of a jaguar just to survive," Mr Blackman said. "This has always been a politically very exciting borough."

Party tries to end war in Scots marginal

The Scottish Conservative party has tried to end an internal dispute by forming a new constituency association for Argyll and Bute (Kerry Gill writes).

Michael Hirst, president of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association, said that a new Tory candidate would be chosen to fight the marginal seat at the next general election. In an attempt to win it back from the Liberal Democrats, the old association closed before Christmas to try to end what Mr Hirst called "a near civil war".

The dispute had centred on Bill Hodgson, the prospective Conservative candidate, who had been criticised in some quarters for his abrasive and high-handed style. Pleas from the leadership to end the fighting failed and Mr Hirst was forced to call for the association to be disbanded, allowing a new one to choose another candidate. Mr Hodgson will be able to stand for election.

The dispute, however, may have wrecked Tory chances of winning back Argyll and Bute. Some of Mr Hodgson's supporters have said they will vote for Ray Michie, the Liberal Democrat MP, in protest at the way Mr Hodgson has been treated.

Midlands lags in pay league

Britain's lowest pay levels are in the Midlands, at more than 10 per cent below the national average, according to Reward, a Staffordshire-based economic survey organisation.

Wage levels are expected to rise 5.8 per cent nationally by April and 5.6 per cent by August, Reward says in a review of earnings and price predictions. Pay increases in Britain in the past year have been higher than the European average, but the trend is likely to be reversed in 1992, with much lower pay rises in Britain, Reward says.

Custody 'wrong' for under-18s

The government should phase out custodial sentences for offenders under 18, the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders argues in a report released today.

The association says that concern over the imprisonment of young people has been fuelled by recent suicides among young prisoners, and by figures showing that three-quarters of juveniles leaving custody are reconvicted within two years.

Smokers injure unborn babies

Infants and babies in the womb are damaged and killed by the smoking habits of adults, according to a report by the Association for Non-Smokers' Rights.

Mothers who smoke during pregnancy run a greater risk of having a low birth-weight baby. The babies of smoking mothers are twice as likely to have febrile seizures, more likely to suffer cot deaths and to be admitted to hospital for intensive care, the report says. After birth, the risks of many respiratory diseases increase in children whose mothers smoke.

Russian leads Hastings chess

After eight rounds of the Foreign and Colonial grandmaster chess tournament at Hastings, the lead is held by Evgeny Bareev, the Russian grandmaster. His position could be challenged by Simeon Agdestein, the Norwegian grandmaster, who has a favourable unfinished game.

Bareev defeated two English players at the weekend, Jon Speelman and Michael Adams. Leading scores are Bareev, six points out of eight; Agdestein, five; Speelman and Adams four each. **Black becomes white, page 4**

Search widens

Police are to interview each of the 3,000 residents of the village of Old Basing, Hampshire, in the search for the man who raped a girl aged 14 on her paper round on Friday morning. Police believe that the man may be being protected by his family.

£30,000 blaze

Fire yesterday caused damage estimated at £30,000 to a barn at a farm near Hungerford, Newbury, Berkshire, owned by the landowner Gerald Ward. More than 30 firemen tackled the blaze, which destroyed a barn and 400 tonnes of straw. Arson is suspected.

IRA bomb cache uncovered in wood

BY PETER DAVENPORT

A WEEKEND rabbit shooting party stalking a corpse called Dead Man's Wood might have foiled an IRA plot to bomb one of Britain's largest army camps. It was disclosed yesterday. The five men uncovered a green cotton holdall containing about 6lb of explosive, probably Semtex.

It was in a wood on the edge of Singleton village, near Blackpool, less than a mile from Weeton camp, where more than 600 men of the 1st Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment are stationed with their families.

The regiment regularly serves in Northern Ireland. The defence ministry declines to discuss military movements, but it was reported locally yesterday that the regiment was due to go back to Ulster within the next few weeks.

The area of Lancashire around Preston and Blackpool has been the frequent target for IRA attacks and the latest find confirms Special Branch fears that an active service unit is still operating.

Keith Brown, an assistant chief constable, said: "It was a bomb of the type used by the IRA in their mainland campaigns. It had not been buried but was hidden and may have been there for weeks rather than days. It is the sort designed to kill, maim and cause a lot of damage."

A shooting party of five local men were walking through the wood on Saturday afternoon when one of them stumbled across the bag while looking for a rabbit he had just shot.

Weeton camp is one of the most secure army bases in the country as soldiers using it are either preparing for or returning from tours of Northern Ireland.

There was an attempt to bomb it in 1983 by the IRA bombers Patrick Magee and his friend Patrick Murray. Magee, aged 41, is serving a minimum of 35 years for the Brighton hotel bombing and Murray, aged 48, has been held in France since 1989 for the car bomb murder in Hanover of a British soldier.

Their plan was rapidly abandoned when they realised they were being watched by police. However, they managed to evade capture after a chase through Preston.

Ministers are to be asked how plans of the Household Cavalry's barracks in Knightsbridge, London, were sent to Envy Owen, a green grocer in Old Colwyn, Chwyd, rather than a roofing contractor, also called Owen, at Pwllheli in Gwynedd.

Britain fights EC proposal for tougher consumer law

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is on a collision course with Brussels over proposed consumer protection laws that would make it difficult for public bodies and firms to defend themselves against claims for personal injury or damage to property.

Ministers have made clear that they regard a draft European Commission directive on the legal liabilities of service industries as unacceptable and are campaigning to persuade their partners to water down the document.

The directive proposes reversing the burden of proof in cases where consumers sue service suppliers for negligence. Defendants would have to prove that they were not at fault to avoid paying compensation. Rail, coach, bus and ferry operators, airlines, taxi firms, hoteliers and caterers, holiday companies, social services and education departments, and safety inspectors are among a host of service industries that would be affected.

The Institute of Directors has given a warning that small traders such as garages, hairdressers and office cleaning companies, would face prohibitive insurance costs and could be forced out of business if the EC succeeds in its plans to make the directive law by the end of this year.

The Commission, which tabled the directive under the Single European Act, has already been persuaded to exempt medical services and the construction industry. This climbdown has lifted one threat of extra compensation payments, costing millions of pounds, but the government has said it is not enough.

One minister described the original directive as "ghastly" and said that the government was well apprised of its difficulties. "It's a blot on the horizon, but not yet a political crisis," the minister said, underlining how seriously Whitehall views the matter.

Edward Leigh, a junior trade minister, is spearheading the government's opposition to the directive, which was first put forward just over a year ago.

In a letter to a member of the European Parliament, he set out the reasons behind the government's opposition. "We see two main difficulties — the extremely broad coverage and the proposed reversal of the burden of proof. There is no question that industry should be liable for injury or damage where it has been negligent, but we need to ensure that we do not impose a regime which results in unnecessary costs. That would not be in the consumer's best interest."

Mr Leigh cited significant problems for a number of sectors. "I could mention transport services, postal services, veterinary services, personal social services for those in need of special care, and inspection and certification bodies. The impact on financial and other advisory services is not clear."

The minister also pointed to drawbacks in reversing the burden of proof. "There are inherent difficulties in proving a negative statement — that is, proving one is not at fault. They lead to uncertainty over what will constitute a defence." A significant number of EC ministers shared his view, he said.



Mackendrick: her party chose route as it went

Tour companies shun Angola as adventure holiday

TRAVELLING in Angola, where four British tourists have been murdered, is not something that even companies specialising in "high hazard" adventure holidays are anxious to promote.

A trawl through small advertisements in travellers' magazines yesterday failed to reveal any company that would be willing to organise an expedition to that country. Even Africa specialists omit it entirely from their brochures as being too dangerous.

Mercedes Mackendrick and the three men who also died were apparently travelling independently, making their own arrangements and choosing their route as they went.

Dr Mackendrick's father had recently bought tickets for her and her boyfriend, James Pilbeam, to return to Britain, though Mr Pilbeam's family believe it was his intention to stay in Africa and continue travelling.

The couple had grouped their four-wheel drive vehicle with two others to form a convoy evidently realising that they were in dangerous country. The Foreign Office has not yet established what advice, if any, was requested by the travellers, or what they were told.

It is not clear who advised them that it would be safer to travel through Angola than through neighbouring Zaire. The Foreign Office would only say last night that its advice to travellers who asked was that it was not safe to travel more than 100 kilometres south of Luanda, or 20 kilometres north.

Travel companies do regularly sell insurance cover for travel in dangerous countries. It can usually be bought through the travel company for those participating in organised tours, and from specialist travel insurance brokers for independent travellers. Most arrange insur-

Robin Young writes that the murder of four Britons in Angola highlights the risk for adventurers

ance through Lloyd's, which is famous for never turning away a risk, however bizarre or ill-advised the chosen adventure might be. There are even "war-risk" policies for recognised war zones, such as Angola only recently ceased to be. Those who choose to go to such places often claim that the challenge and danger are part of the attraction.

Dr Mackendrick and her companions were caught in the nexus of a struggle for the future of a country which is trying to transform itself from Marxist autocracy to democracy. After a 16-year civil war the west African state is a country without a people close to starvation in many places (David Watts writes).

Aid from the socialist block has dried up with demise of the socialist-backed govern-



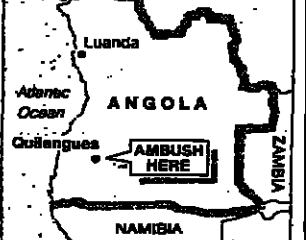
Pilbeam: vehicles formed into convoy

ment of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and that of former guerrilla leader Dr Jonas Savimbi has yet to convince the West that he really has become the democrat that he professes to be with the ability to turn around a centrally-planned economy with 400 state-run companies and a massive civil service.

Dr Savimbi only took up residence in the capital last autumn and has already made it clear that his first priority is to restore the agricultural sector of a nation which was once the only food-exporting country in black Africa.

During the past year he has toured western Europe trying to drum up interest in investment but the response has been modest.

Advice "headed", page 1



Old 'driven out of homes'

OLD and sick people are being driven out of their homes into privately run residential and nursing homes by the government's "back-door privatisation" of care for the elderly, Labour claims today (Nicholas Wood writes).

Harriet Harman, an Opposition health spokesman, accused ministers of squeezing local authority services and encouraging "homes run as businesses" to meet growing demand.

She produced figures showing that state subsidies to people living in private old

people's homes soared from £10 million in 1979 to £1,270 million in 1990 — a rise of more than a hundredfold. Ms Harman predicted that on current trends this bill would rise to £4.7 billion by 1993 when the funding of community care will be transferred from social security to local authorities. Over the same period, the number of people in private residential homes rose by 271 per cent to 143,731 while the number in council homes dropped by 8 per cent to 104,207.

"The privatisation of long-term nursing and residential care is leading to severe financial difficulties for people who have no choice but to go into homes run as businesses."

Urgent action was needed to end the massive expansion of the private care market, Ms Harman said. "We need to create a level playing field between public and private

residential and nursing home care to allow people a real choice of care."

"It is not just that people have no choice about the type of residential care. They are also being denied the option of staying in their own homes. Instead of people being supported by domiciliary care in their own homes, many who could otherwise stay at home end up in old people's homes, with social security paying the bill. People are getting inappropriate levels of care and the cost will siphon money out of other, more appropriate services."

She said it was preferable for people to stay in their own homes for as long as possible. "At present there is a perverse incentive for people to go into private residential care — paid for by central government — rather than domiciliary services paid for by the local council."

Notoriety brings end to stolen spider's spin

BY JOHN VINCENT

THE most famous spider in Britain was back with his owner last night after his sudden notoriety made him too hot to handle.

Ariadne, the poisonous Guatemalan red-rumped tarantula whose disappearance sparked all the fuss, was found by a passer-by abandoned in his tank on a garage forecourt at Penze, south London.

The spider, a ten-year-old, fist-sized bird-eater, was stolen during a burglary at a house in nearby Forest Hill on Wednesday night. Inspector Charles Griggs said he believed the burglars had been forced to abandon Ariadne, who could paralyse an adult for up to ten hours or kill a household pet with a single bite, because of the

publicity following his disappearance. "Quite simply, he became too hot to handle. All the publicity made him unsaleable," he said.

Ariadne's reunion with his owner, who has refused to be named, was one of relief rather than unbridled joy. "My niece had him since he was a baby so I am very pleased to have him back. Although it's not the sort of thing you get sentimental over, like a rabbit or a dog," she said.

Ariadne, or *brachypelma mesomelas*, appeared none the worse for his adventure and was last night tucked into his normal diet of locusts. He was originally thought to be female but when he last shed his skin his owner discovered two pincers, which meant he must be a male.

Bottled water will be checked for quality

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH bottled table water from private supplies will be subject to compulsory quality controls for the first time under regulations brought in last week.

The new laws will mean regular testing and sampling by local authorities, up to twice a month, of all water supplies not provided by water companies. These include private sources for factories and breweries as well as for cable water plants, camps

sites and holiday villages. Private supplies to homes from wells and springs, thought to affect about 500,000 people, most of them in Scotland, will also come under the new controls. Supplies serving a single dwelling will be exempt.

Private water supplies have hitherto escaped regular environmental monitoring and there was no compulsory check on the quality of bottled water for sale at shops and supermarkets. More than 100 brands are involved. Some of the more familiar brands, including

Buxton mineral water, say that their quality controls are already in place and rigorous. "Nothing could be more stringently controlled and tested than Buxton water, which is one of the oldest and purest sources in Britain," Daphne Barren, spokeswoman for Ferrier, which owns the Buxton mineral water company, said.

The new laws, the Private Water Supplies Regulations 1991, require district councils to keep a register of private water supplies in their areas. They will be monitored and tested

regularly for contamination by bacteria or metals, with the frequency depending on the size of the supply. People responsible for the supplies will have to pay for the tests and may be required to carry out improvements.

The regulations for bottled water control only the water being supplied to the plant. The quality of the water in the bottles, which may have deteriorated during the bottling process, will be controlled by a separate regulations being drawn up by the agriculture ministry.

University boycott to training c

Week try to director

Award study

Universities may boycott teacher training courses

BY JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

UNIVERSITIES might refuse to award the revamped teacher training qualification proposed by the government, leading professors of education said yesterday, as academics condemned the transfer of training responsibilities to schools.

Under proposals made in a weekend speech by Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, selected secondary schools would be given the task of training graduates for all but two months of their year's course. Colleges and universities' teacher training budgets would be gradually transferred to schools, the government adding £3 million to help the institutions that lose funds.

Ted Wragg, of Exeter University, forecast that some leading universities would have to close their education departments if the reforms were implemented. Most of the secondary school post-graduate certificate in education (PGCE) courses that are the subject of Mr Clarke's proposals are run by universities. Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol, Nottingham and Southampton universities are among those affected by a transfer to school-based training.

Professor Wragg said: "These proposals will effectively close down a series of university departments that have been responsible for most of the curriculum development that has taken place in schools. It is an extraordinarily phillistine move: there is no other country in the civilised world that is contemplating disbanding the higher education component of its teacher training."

Both Professor Wragg and Eric Bolton, of the London University Institute of Education, a former head of the schools inspectorate, said that universities would be reluctant to award qualifications over which they had so little control. David Harrison, chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, asked: "How will a nationally accepted qualification be maintained, and how will parents react if the good teachers in the good schools are spending all their time training students, rather than teaching their children?"

Mr Clarke wants colleges and schools to form partnerships to train students, who should spend twice as long as at present in the classroom. Schools would apply to become training schools. The changes will begin to be introduced next September if the proposals survive the consultation period.

An inspectorate report published simultaneously with Mr Clarke's speech said the principle of school-based training was sound. It said, however, that schools and teachers involved would need to be carefully chosen as some were unsuitable and the most experienced and successful teachers had many other demands on their time.

The report said that the new approach could not be adopted for primary schools without considerable help in strengthening the induction year for newly qualified teachers. Mr Clarke has delayed any decision on primary training courses until he receives the results of his enquiry into teaching in primary schools, but he insisted on Saturday that the principle of school-based training should apply to all courses.

John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads' Association, gave Mr Clarke's proposals a cautious welcome, although anxious that reforms might be rushed. "I think there is a widespread view among heads that it is time to do something about teacher training. But training must not be confined to affluent, middle class areas if it is to be a realistic introduction to teaching, and we think that every student should have experience of at least two schools."

School-Based Initial Teacher Training in England and Wales (Stationery Office, £4.50)

Education, pages 14, 15

Leading article, page 17

Zoo rebels try to unseat director

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

DISSIDENT fellows of the Zoological Society of London will today call for the resignation of David Jones, director of London Zoo, and half of the zoo's governing council.

Six fellows of the society, calling themselves the Reform Group, are leading a revolt against the present regime at the zoo, which is struggling to save off closure, and which they accuse of failures in management and philosophical outlook.

Led by Stephen Cobb, one of the country's leading experts on African wildlife, and Colin Tudge, a zoologist and author of a book on the future of zoos, the group has gathered the support of more than a hundred fellows for today's meeting at the Senate House of London University.

They feel the zoo's recent troubles have been caused by going too far down the road of a theme park, and that it should return to being a traditional zoo concentrating on captive breeding of endangered animal species. More than 500 fellows are expected to attend the meeting, which is likely to be acrimonious.

However, the zoo authorities have organised a confidence ballot of all 2,200 fellows, the result of which will also be announced tomorrow and that could well support the status quo.

Furthermore, even if the meeting passes the Reform Group's attacking motions, aimed at replacing the present zoo management with an emergency committee, the council is under no legal obligation to take heed of them and can carry on regardless. Tomorrow too the zoo will be announcing its own plan for the future, likely to be a £12 million scheme to turn itself into a conservation education centre.

Green to return as barrister

BY ALAN HAMILTON

SIR Allan Green, QC, the former director of public prosecutions, is expected to resume his career as a barrister soon, after being voted back on to the Bar Council by law colleagues. Sir Allan resigned last October after an alleged kerfuffle over an incident at King's Cross.

Before being appointed DPP, Sir Allan, aged 56, was a regular and prominent prosecuting counsel in criminal trials at the Central Criminal Court. The Bar Council has voted unanimously to readmit him as one of four co-opted members, and the council chairman, Gareth Williams, QC, has written to Sir Allan saying that he would be welcomed back as a practising barrister.

At the time of the alleged incident, Sir Allan informed the Bar's professional conduct committee but it took no disciplinary action against him. He is expected to have little difficulty in finding chambers in his new position.

Award-winner to study NHS role

THIS year's Charles Douglas-Horne Memorial Trust award has been given to Dr Anthony Daniels, consultant psychiatrist at Dudley Road and All Saints Hospitals in Birmingham. He has been commissioned to write a study of the National Health Service, which *The Times* will publish later this year.

Dr Daniels will question whether the NHS has the right priorities. He will look critically at the alleged underfunding of the system, and ask whether there really is a "crisis" in health care. He will present the case for instituting future reforms of the service on an experimental basis. In certain regions but not in others, so policy makers can find out what works before introducing reform on a national scale.

Dr Daniels has wide international experience of health care, having worked in Africa and the Pacific as well as in Britain. He has written seven books on medical and other matters and has been a contributor to *The Spectator* since 1983. "I hope to bring a

wider perspective to the subject than someone who has not travelled outside Britain," he says.

The award is the fifth made by the trust, set up in honour of Charles Douglas-Horne, the former editor of *The Times*. Simon Jenkins, the present editor, is one of the trustees. David Dimbleby, a trustee of the fund, said that the trustees' aim was to widen public debate and provoke argument of the kind that Charles Douglas-Horne had encouraged in *The Times*.



Daniels: international health care experience

Wrexham toasts a great win soberly

BY ALAN HAMILTON

SUNDAY in bible-black Presbyterian old Wales is not a day for rejoicing, celebration, parrying or drunkenness. Not even when you have slain a giant in red that came roaring across Offa's Dyke to eat some natives for tea. Well, you might reasonably expect a bit of a knees-up on the Saturday night: just one teeny bottle of champagne.

But no. After earth-shattering events at the Racecourse ground on Saturday afternoon, Wrexham displayed little outward sign of jubilation yesterday. The town's team, sixth from bottom of the fourth division and a whisker away last season from ignominious descent into the GM Vauxhall Conference, the football pond for minnows, had scored a 2-1 victory over the gunners from Highbury, seventh in the first division and last year's League champions.

Ten thousand fervent home supporters erupted in wild delight as first their veteran 37-year-old captain Mickey

Thomas fired in an equalising free kick and again when Steve Watkin, a mere lad of 20, scored the winner two minutes later. Then they went home, sober and well-behaved, and the police could not find a single outbreak of rowdiness.

In the home dressing room, the result was so unexpected that a quick search was initiated for a bottle of bubbly, but none could be found. A litre bottle of whisky was eventually produced and placed on a table in the room; it remained unopened. The team made do with nothing more than its usual after-match refreshment, a can or two of beer in the players' lounge.

The height of celebration appeared to be Watkin, who was in the team when Wrexham last met Arsenal at home — unsuccessfully — in 1978. He jumped into the bath in full kit to satisfy the whim of a photographer, and presented his scoring boot to a young apprentice player, who vowed to frame it.

Magnanimous in defeat, David Seaman, the Arsenal goalkeeper, presented

his ill-fated gloves to Thomas's 11-year old son. "It was nice of him; he's a real professional. Or perhaps he doesn't want to wear them again," Thomas said.

Watkin had an early night, and spent yesterday watching a video recording of the game. "There was no party for me, but I was so excited I hardly slept a wink all night," he said. Nor were there any party for 4,000 Arsenal fans who slunk back to the big city dragging their tails behind them.

The equanimity with which Wrexham received its moment of triumph may in fact be a bad case of tenner-hooks. They have to await a replay on January 14 to know whether their fourth-round opponents will be plucky little non-league Farnborough United, who held West Ham to a draw on Saturday, or the heavy brigade itself from Upton Park. Serious partying is on the back burner until then.

Arsenal shattered, page 32



Water, water, everywhere: members of a Swindon sub-aqua club find a warming drop to drink yesterday as they take a well-earned breather during their annual 4½-mile charity swim along the Thames from Kelmscot to Radcot, Oxfordshire

Hundreds of stores open on Sunday

BY JENNY KNIGHT

HUNDREDS of supermarkets opened to shoppers in England and Wales yesterday as major food chains continued trading in defiance of Sunday trading laws.

Tesco, which opened 220 of its 395 stores, and Sainsbury's, with a third of its branches open, are planning to continue trading on Sunday.

Asda opened 100 of its 205 stores, compared to the 180 before Christmas. A spokesman said that the reduction reflected the level of demand expected. Gateway opened about 70 stores.

Protesters are keeping up their campaign against Sunday trading. The full text of a letter sent to the prime minister by Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, Dr Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, and the Rev John Williams, the Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council, was disclosed yesterday.

In the letter, dated November 6, they asked Mr Major to make a public appeal to retail companies to obey the law. It said that "toleration of any widespread and deliberate flouting" of the law on Sunday trading would "undermine the institution of a nationally observed day in the week substantially set apart for activities which are other than commercial in nature".

It added: "We believe that all people need to have one day in the week which is different, and which provides an opportunity of varied forms of community life and activity. Divine worship is an important but not the only concern here. The progressive abandonment of such a nationally observed day poses a real danger to family life and social relationships, and especially to the welfare to many workers in the retail industry."

The letter adds that "it is surely wholly unacceptable for those who seek profit by illegal action to be allowed to pursue it without censure. The government should neither condone, nor appear to, illegal activities."

David Blackmore, of the Keep Sunday Special Campaign, called on the government to support an all-party private members' bill to reform Sunday trading laws which comes before the Commons on Monday next week.

NHS cash could be cut for counties with high private health cover

AFFLUENT areas where many people have private health insurance would receive less NHS money under a scheme being examined by a regional health authority.

South West Thames is considering including a private insurance factor in its formula for distributing funds to local districts. Managers argue that where private cover is high — in Surrey and West Sussex — the demand for NHS services is lower. The formula would help to channel funds to areas where NHS demand is higher, such as Wandsworth, Merton and Sutton and Croydon.

If the scheme is introduced it would mark the fulfilment of the claim by Margaret Thatcher that a strong private sector could subsidise the health service. But it would be likely to provoke protests from holders of private health insurance, who might demand tax rebates on their insurance premiums.

Ray Robinson, health economist at the King's Fund Institute, a health service think tank, said: "If you have a

between a simple formula that is easy to understand but imperfect and one so complicated that no one can understand it, we don't know yet where the balance is."

Rasaraman Balarajan, an epidemiologist at Surrey University, who has been working on the funding formula for South West Thames, said that the private insurance factor "was raised and is therefore on the agenda". He has already investigated social deprivation, GPs' workload and internal migration within the region as possible factors affecting funding. "Private insurance is further down the line," Professor Balarajan said.

But Bupa, the private health care organisation, sees the move as a threat. Peter Garrard-Cole, director of sales, said: "It could have a significant political impact because we are all taxpayers and paying contributions to the NHS. The implication would worry us greatly. We would have very strong views if it disadvantaged our members."

Funds are allocated to regions on the basis of their population, weighted for age and mortality rate. Mr Spry said that the formula needed refining for local district level. "A balance has to be struck

target," Mr Spry said. "But the places below target are where you would expect to find high levels of private insurance — the Sussexes of this world. The implication is that this would switch funds back to the inner cities where the need is greatest."

Mr Spry said that no decision had yet been taken on whether to examine the practicalities of including private cover in the funding formula. "There is a list of 15 factors we could look at. We would have to get information on cover from the private insurance companies and even if they would give it to us there would be the difficulty of judging its impact on the population."

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Soviet chess masters find black is white

THE upheavals that have shaken the former Soviet Union are now being played out on the chessboard. The bottom has fallen out of the world of Soviet chess professionals, apart from a few at the top. Thousands of candidate masters, masters and grandmasters enjoyed sinecures in offices, factories and clubs. Their real function was to play chess.

But the new economic and political realities have swept away their purpose and their privileges.

The upheaval is not confined to the former USSR borders. Not only are many of the players turning out under the flags of their new republics, but some are being enticed by Western countries. There is a danger that a mass exodus of former Soviet chess experts at all levels will start to monopolise the prizes in Western tournaments.

With four million registered players, the USSR had accounted for 80 per cent of the World Chess Federation's membership. In 1920 Lenin had declared chess "the gymnasium of the mind" and state bureaucrats in the sports ministry set about turning the Soviet Union into the greatest chess power the world had seen. They believed that world domination in the game would confer intellectual respectability on the fledgling state.

From 1948, when Mikhail Botvinnik won the

Raymond Keene plots the moves of the former USSR's troubled chess champions

world championship, that domination was assured. The only brief hiatus was the intrusion of the American Bobby Fischer, who took the world title from Boris Spassky in 1972. Three years later Fischer abdicated and has not played a public game of chess since.

For almost half a century, Soviet grandmasters enjoyed a privileged position. The hub of their empire was a splendid building on Gogol Boulevard in the centre of Moscow, its walls hung with photographs of past champions and cabinets stuffed with the trophies of Olympic championships and world titles.

While the likes of Gary Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov are financially secure against any vagaries in their fortunes or hyperinflation in the former Soviet economy, the future is uncertain for such as Anton Sidorkov, aged 18, champion of the Russian province of Karelia and an aspiring master.

It is not uncommon to find some Russians hawking tins of contraband caviar or manuscripts of chess expertise in the corridors of Western tournaments.

The grandmasters have dispersed to represent their republics. Of the three former Soviet grandmasters competing in the United Kingdom's premier chess competition, the Foreign and Colonial grandmaster section at Hastings, Evgeny Bareev, last year's winner, and the veteran Alexei Suetin, aged 65, winner in 1967, are playing under the Russian tricolour. Alexei Shirov, aged 19, has pinned his colours to the crimson and white of the new Latvian republic. At the ten-man tournament at Reggio nell'Emilia, Italy, officially the strongest chess tournament ever held, a chess diaspora is taking place. One former Soviet player, Mikhail Gurevich, represents Belgium, another, Alexander Hallfman, plays for a German club. Valery Salov has become a mercenary for Spain and the great theoretician Lev Polugaevsky has joined Spassky in Paris. The world federation now insists on three years' residence before a player can represent a country in the chess Olympics. Without that measure, national teams could soon have been swamped with former Soviet grandmasters.

Will England find its Olympic silver medals threatened by the likes of Latvia, Estonia and Ukraine, or will we inherit the USSR mantle? That is a fascinating question to which it is too early to give a definitive answer.



Playing under new rules: Anton Sidorkov, aged 18, left, and Alexei Suetin, aged 65, both representing Russia, considering their moves at the Foreign and Colonial championship at Hastings



Police seize cleaver in gang battle

Two men were injured and 19 others arrested after a street fight between rival gangs in Bradford, West Yorkshire, early yesterday. The disturbance involved about 50 Asian youths in the city's Horton Grange area.

One man is in a serious condition with head injuries after being attacked with a meat cleaver. Police, who seized the weapon, said that nine men drove off in two vehicles and were later detained after a road accident in Oldham.

They were returned to Bradford for questioning, with ten local men.

Ramblers fight planning code

New guidelines for planning officers aimed at helping them to clean up derelict land around towns and cities would weaken restrictions on development in protected areas and "punch holes" in the green belt, the Ramblers' Association says today.

The association fears that the guidelines, to be sent out in April by a planning officers' national advisory group, would allow development in protected countryside in exchange for funds to tidy up sites on city outskirts.

Mound found

Archaeologists believe they have discovered a large burial mound, dating from 2600 BC, at Tennyson Down, near Freshwater, Isle of Wight. It is said to be of the same type as found at Stonehenge.

Algerians held

Three Algerian men who tried to enter Britain illegally inside a freight container were arrested after being seen at a freight terminal near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

Ferry returns

The Cowes Express ferry service from Southampton to the Isle of Wight restarted after harbour dues were paid and a writ impounding the ferry was withdrawn.

Twitchers' day

Hundreds of bird-spotters flocked to the north Devon coast near Ilfracombe to see the Surf Scooter, an American sea duck.

Jail visitor



The Irish president, Mary Robinson, who yesterday attended Mass in the women's section of Mountjoy prison, Dublin, and met prisoners and staff.

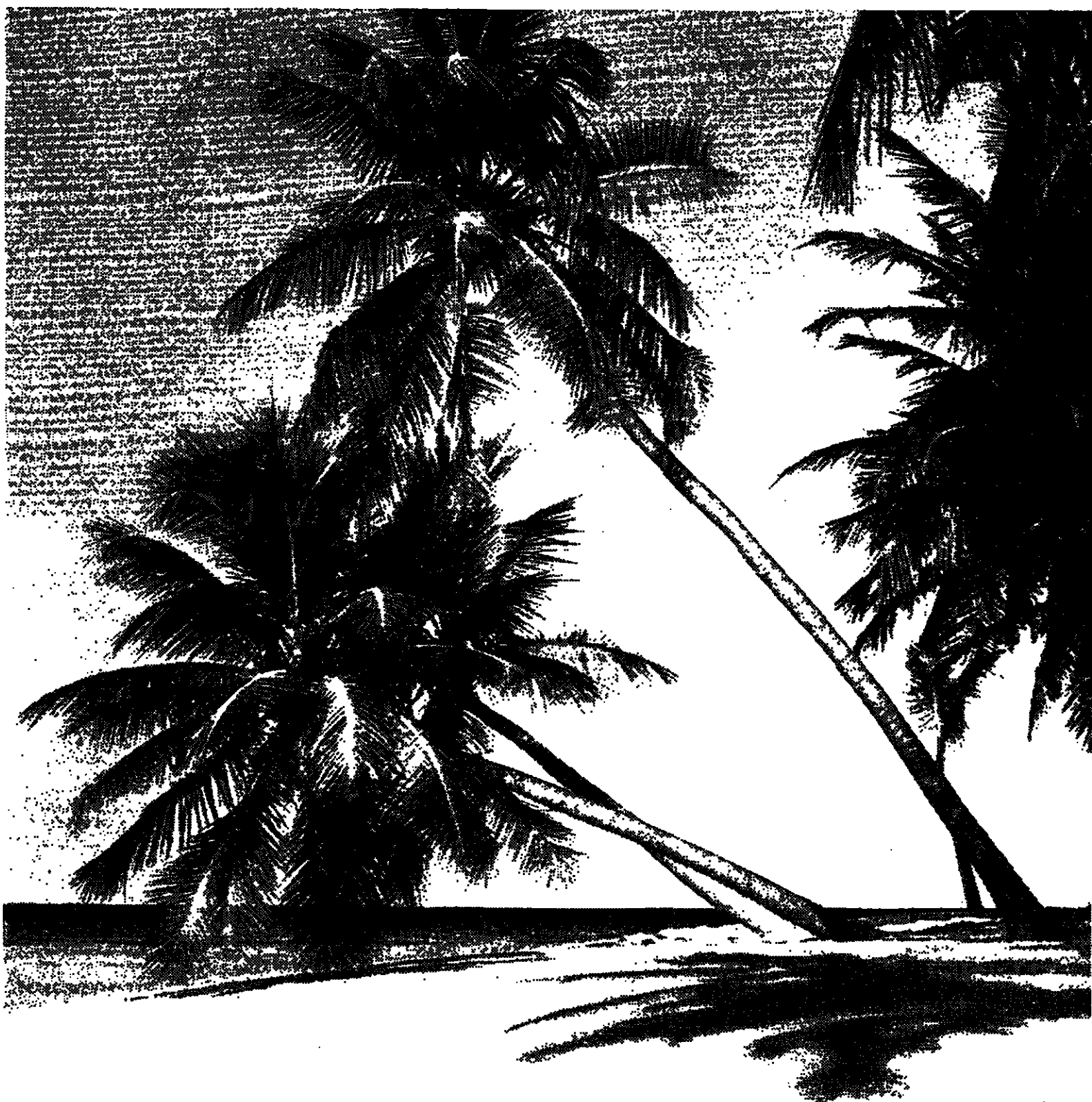
Recycled tree

The 76ft Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square is to be shredded into compost for use in gardens and parks.

Bond winners

The winners in the National Savings Premium Bond prize draw were: £100,000, number 29BW 789774, value of holding £1,000, winner lives in Roxburghshire; £50,000, 16AT 732118; (£5,570, Somerset); £25,000, 8XZ 716193 (£2,000, North Humberside).

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Passengers pay as rail fare rise arrives on time

BY MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail's annual fare increases took effect yesterday, raising the average cost of a journey by 7.75 per cent, almost twice the rate of inflation, despite the government's intervention to hold down fares.

The cost of a season ticket increased by 7.9 per cent, while passengers using recently modernised routes faced increases of about 8.9 per cent. Fare increases on the antiquated London, Tilbury and Southend line were pegged at 5 per cent.

John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, yesterday criticised the government for presiding over a package of fare increases "which makes British Rail the most expensive service and the worst quality service of any major railway in Europe".

Anger over the scale of the increases has been more vocal than normal, fuelled largely by growing irritation over delays and disruption caused by obsolete equipment, poor reliability during bad weather, and safety precautions during terrorist incidents.

The increases are urgently needed, however, to help offset the decline in revenue caused by the recession and falling income from property sales, while at the same time financing a backlog of modernisation schemes on InterCity, Network SouthEast and Regional Railways.

The recession has forced the government to temporarily reverse the policy of subsidy reductions, although its

long-term objective of transferring the cost of running the national rail network from taxes to tickets remains intact.

The next stage in the government's attempt to shift costs from the taxpayer to the traveller is expected to be announced within a few weeks, when Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, unveils plans to privatise and deregulate BR's passenger and freight services.

If implemented, passengers using the profitable sectors of the rail network, including InterCity, would have to shoulder the full price of operating and investment costs, although unprofitable sectors, such as Network SouthEast and Regional Railways, will require some government subsidy.

Mr Prescott has said that the break-up and privatisation of BR will lead to a deterioration in the level and quality of services as non-profitable routes are closed, and long-term investment needs are sacrificed for short-term profits.

The Association of London Authorities, the organisation representing the capital's Labour-controlled boroughs, argues that reduced subsidies and increased fares have made transport in London the most expensive of all European capitals. The comparisons do not, however, take into account the different levels of subsidy, financed by different levels of direct taxation.

Scientist cracks secret of low cholesterol egg

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A CANADIAN scientist has developed an egg that can be eaten without raising blood cholesterol levels.

Produced by hens fed on a special diet, the eggs are low in cholesterol and high in a fatty acid found in fish that is believed to protect against heart disease.

Dr Jeong Sim, of the department of animal sciences at the University of Alberta, has completed one study and is running another to compare the effects of eating conventional and low-cholesterol eggs.

The egg market has suffered in recent years from health scares linking cholesterol content with an increased risk of heart disease. Although fat is now the main target of health campaigners, the recommendation is that people should not eat more than five eggs a week.

Dr Sim set out to produce

an egg with the same balance of fatty acids as fish. By enriching the chickens' diet in omega-3 fatty acids, which are found in fish, he found that the eggs were also rich in the same materials. The main source of the fatty acids was oil-seeds, which grow in large amounts in Canada.

During the autumn, Dr Sim fed a group of university students two eggs a day for 23 days and found that those eating the new eggs showed no increase in blood cholesterol, unlike those eating the conventional eggs. More significantly, those who ate the designer eggs showed a 37 per cent reduction in triglycerides, which are believed to contribute to heart disease.

Dr Sim is organising a bigger study of 100 people and says that the Canadian egg industry is keen to produce the new eggs. The only

drawback was that the eggs not only copied fish but tasted like them. That had now been solved, however, by refining the diet.

Dr Sim said that the second round of experiments using the high-acidity eggs was going well, and added: "Very soon we are going to hit the market." He was confident that the product would be well received by Canadian consumers.

In the experiments some of the volunteers, recruited through newspaper advertisements, are given ordinary eggs to eat while others are given eggs from chickens fed with mixture containing Canadian flaxseed and canola oils.

Dr Sim said he hoped that his tests would eventually make it possible to design other low-cholesterol products, such as milk.

Bernard Levin, page 16

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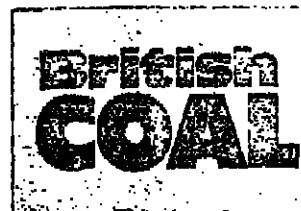
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Expatriates
fall on hard
times in
many Spain



India
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Old people's homes threaten to make costas another Eastbourne

Expatriates fall on hard times in sunny Spain

UP THE dusty ochre track weaving through olive trees, Maria Consuelo Mas Montorio, a British-trained district nurse, makes her daily visit to her bedridden patient. She is the only person whom the 74-year-old British expatriate has seen over Christmas.

Less than 20 miles away, on a similar hillside at Coin, set back from the excesses of the Costa del Sol strip, the set for a new BBC soap opera is being built. More than £10 million is being spent on the Little England series which chronicles the life of the expatriate British community.

While the fictional urbanisation focuses on the cliché of white marble and swimming pools — the essential elements of the British home in the sun — the surrounding hills hide a reality far removed from the dream. Thousands of those who left behind the damp chilly winters, the taxes, and the trials of growing old in Britain, to live the sort of life to be depicted by the BBC, find growing older and poorer difficult in a relatively underdeveloped country where care of the old and infirm is regarded as a family responsibility and not one for the state.

Maria Consuelo Mas Montorio tends only the British in her role as a private



Consuelo Mas Montorio: only visitor

For many infirm and lonely Britons, life on the costas is no bed of roses. Lin Jenkins reports

district nurse in San Pedro. She has no equivalent in the Spanish system, where home visiting nurses only administer drugs. "One lady of 88 has broken her leg and gone to a nursing home, so I am feeding her dog," she said. "There is nobody else to do things like this."

Problems often set in only when one partner dies and the remaining one falls ill. "They often have a lovely house in the mountains, a maid and a gardener, do not speak Spanish, have no transport or telephone, and no chance of getting one. I do the shopping, call the plumber — everything. I ask about relatives at home, but either they have none or feel they do not want to bother them."

Sometimes Maria has to call the local Anglican chaplain to arrange a funeral. She has lost count of the number of Britons committed to a pauper's grave. "I have also arranged to take people back to England when their money has gone and they are infirm. They simply have to go back and be cared for by the state system in England."

Last summer an English woman was repatriated after being found alone, emaciated and senile, surrounded by starving cats in her home in Marbella.

Few envisaged the negative aspects of the cultural divide when the first wave of Britons settled for retirement in the sun 20 years ago. As the gin became more expensive and house prices failed to rise in line with those at home, many found their pensions barely adequate and could not afford to sell up and return.

Left alone, they found that while reciprocal health arrangements have existed between the two countries since



A place in the sun: Jack and Laurie Grove — "We are well off compared with some of those you hear about"

1988, in Spanish hospitals, families literally move in and see to the patient's food, cleanliness and laundry.

A group of expatriates loosely based around a church fill the void. Elsie Woodard was widowed within five years of arriving in Spain in the late 1970s. "I've made many friends through my hospital work. Some cases are very sad," she said. "But I am fortunate. I have good health insurance and a family at home, unlike many who came out here."

The British embassy in Madrid acknowledges that there are problems among the 250,000 people settled in Spain, mostly on the Costa del Sol and the Costa Blanca.

Laurie Grove, aged 82, now limits her social life to the occasional foray on to the catwalk at local fashion shows and visiting a few close friends. With husband Jack,

aged 87, she regards the past as good, with business having provided travel and Latin and ballroom dancing.

Both have angina, she diabetes and he an increasing hearing problem. They would like to sell their two bedroomed apartment near Marbella, but choose to wait for prices to pick up. The plan is to rent.

Their only daughter, aged 61 and a widow, visits once a year. "We are well off compared with some of those you hear about, and can cope," Jack said. "We have had a great life, a great retirement, and we'll be fine."

With their enthusiasm and careful planning they probably will, like those taking advantage of the emerging old people's homes threatening to turn the costas into Eastbourne in the sun. Others will be less fortunate.

Magic steals march on religion in Italy

Rome: Italians believe in magic more than they believe in religion, the Catholic monthly *Vita Pastorale* reports in its latest issue, quoting "disturbing" opinion polls on the spread of belief in the occult.

Figures show that in 1988 Italians spent more than £667 million on consulting magicians, whereas in 1990 they gave less than half that to the Catholic church. The "forces of magic" employed more than 100,000 people full-time in Italy, while the number of priests was only 38,000.

The magazine fears that magic has become a parallel

religion, proposing an "occult information service" that would help the Catholic church spread the faith among "brothers who seek a magic God" as well as among "the professionals of the occult". It denounced the growth of an industry of "accessories for the occult", with catalogues offering portable, washable altars, "lustral water" for exorcisms, "oil of graces" to ward off the evil eye, "oil of miracles" and bottles of "Judas blood", a wine for love rituals.

Here, *Vita Pastorale* warns, lies Satan, "who uses the occult to draw people into his clutches". (AFP)

Prime minister takes a pay cut

The Indian Prime Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, has cut his salary by 10 per cent as part of a government effort to slash its expenditure. The 70-year-old politician told cabinet of his decision by letter, and urged them to follow his lead. Volunteering a salary cut would drive home the seriousness of the financial crunch facing the country, he said. (AFP)

The Pope is to join in the 500th anniversary celebrations of Christopher Columbus's discovery of the American continent with a visit to the Dominican Republic in October. His visit could well reawaken the controversy over the work of Christian missionaries to the New World in the face of criticisms that they harmed indigenous cultures, which he has defended stoutly. (Reuters)

An unnamed worker has been crushed to death between two lighting equipment cranes on the set of the Kevin Costner movie *The Bodyguard*. Filming on the Warner Bros film, which stars Costner as a bodyguard and singer Whitney Houston as an actress he is assigned to protect, was suspended after the accident. (AP)

Billy Graham, the evangelist who spent nearly ten months on crusades and other events in Moscow, Buenos Aires and Scotland last year, plans to slow down in 1992 to spend more time with his family and work on his memoirs. Graham, aged 73, had a benign cyst removed from his left foot at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, at the weekend. "My mind and heart are still in it," he said. "I don't have the physical strength. My body keeps crying out to me to slow down." (AP)

A little girl's lost ball was returned as a Christmas present — after 78 years. "When I opened the package I said, 'Oh, what is this?'" Mildred Lambert, aged 86, of Smith Centre, Kansas, said. "But then I saw what it was, and I had to shed some tears." She was eight years old when she lost the red, blue and yellow ball in the space

between two houses: when her daughter, Sharon Lambert, heard that they were to be demolished, she wrote to the owners, who found and returned the ball.

The Atarian Youth Organisation, a black radical group, has threatened a hostile reception in South Africa for Whoopi Goldberg, the American actress, who arrived in Johannesburg on Friday to star in a local film production of the musical *Sarafina*, set in Soweto. The group also urged the American singer Paul Simon to scrap a tour of South Africa scheduled to start on Saturday. Promoters say it will go ahead.

For the second time, King Juan Carlos of Spain celebrated a birthday yesterday in a Madrid hospital recovering from knee surgery after a ski accident. He tore his right knee three days after Christmas when a skier knocked him down on the annual



royal holiday in the northern Spanish resort of Baqueira. The king, now 54, was in hospital at Christmas in 1983 after a similar accident, and could be on crutches for three months. (AP)

The five under-aged beneficiaries of the \$30 million estate of reggae star Bob Marley could each get a payment of \$995,000 (about £560,000) by the end of the month, his widow's lawyers say. The US Supreme Court last month ordered the sale of the estate's assets to the seven adult beneficiaries and to Island Logic, a New York music company. Marley, 36, died of cancer in Miami in May 1981 without leaving a will. (AP)

US launches 'state of the art' sub

Groton, Connecticut: Lynn Martin, the Labour Secretary, christened the USS Springfield, the US Navy's newest nuclear-powered submarine at the weekend, citing it as an example of America's technological excellence.

"American nuclear submarines are the state of the art, the leaders in this technology," she said during ceremonies at the launch of the 360ft submarine. (Reuters)

Bad intention

Stockholm: A television viewer in Sweden, where striking children is outlawed, has formally complained to police after seeing a father slap his son's face in the Ingmar Bergman drama *Good Intentions*. (Reuters)

Fatal weight

Milwaukee: A 21st 7lb woman who fatally crushed her 11st 6lb husband when she sat on him may have been the victim of abuse and might not be charged. "We understand there was some sort of family quarrel, where the wife and two children were restraining the husband," police said. (Reuters)

Work turn-off

Tokyo: Workaholics are losing favor in Japan, especially among women aged 30 to 34. 78 per cent of whom told pollsters that workaholic men were a turn-off. (AFP)

Phone view

New York: A generation after making the promise, American Telephone and Telegraph Co today unveil a \$2,000 (£1,125) telephone that can send moving pictures of callers as well as their voices. (AP)

Dream voyage

Paris: Parisians fed up with the wet, grey winter are finding solace in an exhibition vividly recalling the glamorous era of transatlantic passenger liners. "Legendary Liners" is at the Maritime Museum in the Palais de Chaillot. (Reuters)

India's weavers starve as the looms fall silent

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABIR BASTI, DELHI

THE hand loom weavers of India are desperate. Some are starving. Thousands are pouring into Delhi, looking for non-existent traditional work. The weavers' slum of Kabir Basti, one of several, is septic with silent looms and dead-eyed people returning from humiliating labour as balloon sellers, domestic servants and rickshaw pullers.

Power looms have destroyed them: Hindu weavers belong to the Koli caste, who have been weavers for centuries. Muslims also have their own weaving community, which is equally desperate. The British almost crushed them when the Lancashire mills took away their work, but they were saved by Mahatma Gandhi's exhortation to boycott foreign cloth and

wear homespun material. This time there is no saviour, and one of the great folk crafts of India is dying.

Some of India's millions of weavers have committed suicide and there are reports of starvation in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Old men in Kabir Basti while away empty days talking of the good times. One of the periods of greatest prosperity was in the 18th century, when India's hand loom cloths were fashionable among the European aristocracy. The two world wars were also a time of plenty because of demand for cloth.

Hundreds of hand looms stand idle in Kabir Basti. Churni Lal, who thinks he is about 80, owns six, all in disrepair. While other

weavers have sold their looms for firewood, Mr Lal says he will starve first. "If an old cow goes dry of milk do you simply throw it out? No, you honour it for the years of service it has given you. I have worshipped these looms throughout my life and I will not destroy them."

Near by, there is the clunk-clunk of a hand loom being operated, and from its beams and warps a bedcover is taking shape. This is a rare sight. Roshan Lal, aged 39, has enough work for a month, for which he is being paid 20 rupees (43p) a day. He does it for the dignity of employment, for which his caste destined him. He is aware that he is being exploited ruthlessly by the shopkeeper who commissioned him.

Shankar Lal — all the Koli weavers take the name Lal — is also working on bedcovers. He is being paid five rupees for each. By working 12 or 14 hours, he can make five bedcovers a day. "Some businessmen gave me the contract. There is work for about six days. I have to accept their terms. I must eat. We do anything to survive — work in factories, sell vegetables and toys, clean up other people's filth. It is humiliating, but there is no alternative."

There are 400 weavers in this slum; another near by houses 500 more. In all there are 10,000 weavers in Delhi, but hardly any work at their trade. The government does little to help them. Sarthi, a Delhi-based voluntary organisation that fights for traditional craftsmen, musicians and artists, wants to set up a village for such people but no government land has been offered despite many promises.

A control order approved by parliament in 1950 gave the weavers some short-lived hope. It laid down specific articles that would be reserved for hand looms, but the textile industry ignored the rules and successfully challenged the control order in court. It was the kiss of death for hand loom weaving, and the decades since have brought worsening poverty.

Engineers help a parched land live

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH engineers are piloting a new water irrigation system that could help to transform Africa's harsh rural economies while improving the health, income and lives of the peoples there.

The system, being tested at two sites including the Lowveld research station in Zimbabwe, allows farmers to create lush, small-scale kitchen gardens in semi-arid areas even during droughts. The technique can boost crop yields by doubling or trebling the amount of water that can be abstracted by more traditional methods.

The system, said also to be low-cost and to use local skills, is the brainchild of water engineers and hydrologists at the British Geological Survey and the Institute of Hydrology in Wallingford, Oxfordshire, who are funded by the government's Overseas Development Agency.

At the heart of the system is a collector well, which consists of a traditional hand-dug well some 30m deep from which four or more

bore-holes are drilled out to around 20m into the surrounding weathered basement rock. That is known to hold numerous small aquifers, and the radially-drilled collector wells increase the chances of hitting aquifers while boosting the well's flow from a trickle to an average of about a litre a second.

Charles Batchelor, of the Institute of Hydrology, said: "The World Bank has spent a lot of money putting in bore-holes, but they go beyond the water bearing strata. The collector wells are far cheaper and much more effective."

As part of the irrigation system, locally-made clay pipes are laid under the soil, a contrast to the traditional method in which farmers gather water from wells in buckets and pour it on to the crops, losing about a third of the water to evaporation.

At the pilot sites farmers pour the water into the mouths of the pipes, which then run under the crops, leaking out into the soil with minimal loss.

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John - 1992

Concern grows at signs of Iraqi nuclear links with Algeria



Aiming for power: Islamic success in Algeria raises doubts on co-operation with the West

INTERNATIONAL concern is growing over the Algerian nuclear programme, after overtures to Iraqi scientists, and the growing probability of a fundamentalist Islamic government taking power in Algeria within two weeks.

Monitors fear that the present international surveillance of the Algerian nuclear programme could end if the fundamentalists come to power. Since Algeria has never signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the monitoring is carried out only through the good will of the present government.

The International Atomic Energy Agency is unable to confirm whether uranium

David Watts reports on the outlook for the nuclear programme as Algeria's fundamentalists move towards power

and expert help had been supplied by the Iraqis to the Algerians before the strict control and United Nations observation of the Iraqis began last May. But Iraqi nuclear scientists have told the agency privately that they have been approached by the Algerians to work for them. The Libyans have also made approaches. The Algerians can, in any event, obtain natural uranium on their own account, and their nuclear programme has been helped

by China for some time. At the moment the agency has monitoring access to a facility in Algiers itself, while a 15-megawatt nuclear reactor is being built with Chinese assistance at a guarded desert base in the foothills of the Atlas mountains at Ain Oussera, 100 miles to the south of the capital. That plant is some way from completion, but the government has promised the agency that they will be allowed to inspect it when it is finished. Both the

Chinese and Algerian governments say there is no intention of manufacturing nuclear weapons. It is believed that the plant would have produced enough plutonium to make a primitive bomb by the latter half of the 1990s.

Whether or not President Saddam Hussein of Iraq is helping the Algerians and intends to do so in the future depends on his psychology. In the past he has been determined on Iraqi nuclear dominance of the Middle East and concentrated resources and expertise at home, but his dispatch of many of his best military aircraft to Iran towards the end of the Gulf war suggests that he may now be

thinking more in terms of the overall Islamic interest. The agency's monitoring of rogue nuclear operations is hampered by the fact that it is given no access to the intelligence gleaned by the West, although a meeting next month of the agency's board of directors will seek to change that. But Western governments remain unhappy about sharing their intelligence with a body consisting of representatives from 114 nations which, among others, includes Cuba.

In Algiers, Abdelkader Hachani, the provisional leader of the Islamic Salvation Front, which won a first-round victory in the country's

elections ten days ago, appeared in court yesterday after being charged with defaming the defence ministry. The ministry charged that Mr Hachani, at an election meeting in the eastern city of Constantine, "imputed... imaginary and serious" facts against the armed forces and its authorities in connection with a November attack on a security forces post at Guemmar, near the Tunisian border, where a gang of armed men, said to belong to the "Islamic Armed Movement", slit the throats of three soldiers and seized weapons. Special forces hunted down the gang, killing 13 in a final clash in December.

Quayle gains tougher image

FROM PETER STOTHARD
US EDITOR IN WASHINGTON

VICE-PRESIDENT Dan Quayle will lead the Bush campaign into the New Hampshire primary battle this week, buoyed by an unusually favourable press portrait of his political acumen.

According to a seven-part investigation by *The Washington Post*, which began yesterday, the standard perception that he stumbled into the vice-presidency in 1988 by accident is a mistake: "It was the happy result of months of subtle, even stealthy, planning".

Mr Quayle is reported, by his own admission, to have "rolled the dice" for the number two place on the Bush ticket in February 1988, six months before his surprise selection. Although few took any notice of the then virtually unknown senator from Indiana, Mr Quayle began to look for what he called a "career advancement". It was time, he said, "to begin to develop some wings and see if you can fly".

The *Post* team depicts Mr Quayle's wife, Marilyn, as his key adviser who argued it was a "win-win" choice for him to try for the job held by five of the last nine occupants of the White House.

One who did notice the campaign to raise the Quayle profile by defence to conservatives on defence was Senator William Cohen of Maine. "It looked like there was a campaign to get Bush's attention", he said of the spate of articles and speeches which began as soon as the 1988 New Hampshire campaign was over and Mr Bush seemed assured of the nomination. The Quayle strengths — youth, photographic appeal, Midwestern and conservative background — were carefully presented before Mr Bush, who was seen as keen to pick a running mate who had not opposed him in the past.

Yesterday's article provides a useful boost for the Bush-Quayle ticket as it prepares to fight off the conservative, Patrick Buchanan, in New Hampshire. The past six months have been good for Mr Quayle, who has appeared steady and confident while the White House has rocked in the recession. When he speaks to voters in the first primary on Wednesday he will not only have gone a long way to kill his comic reputation but have begun to put an image of toughness and capability in its place.

Bush greeted in Korea by protest over spy planes

BY SIMON WARNER IN SEOUL
AND DAVID WATTS IN LONDON

AS A sharp reminder that he was heading for the world's last Cold War flashpoint, President Bush was greeted on his arrival in Seoul yesterday by a complaint from North Korea that American spy planes had been patrolling the border between North and South in the last few days.

Mr Bush's visit is intended to help relieve the tension on the peninsula by underlining American determination to put an end to the North's plans to develop a nuclear weapon. The US intelligence flights along the dividing line between North and South are routine affairs which become more crucial when US presidents visit.

The president's visit comes after the withdrawal of all US nuclear weapons from the South, which should invalidate North Korea's requirement to match the nuclear capability of the South. Despite two agreements between the two Koreas in December — one on non-aggression, exchanges and co-operation signed on December 13, and one on making the peninsula nuclear-free initiated on December 31 — there is still concern that North Korea's nuclear development programme may already have put it within a year of building its own atomic bomb.

Although Mr Bush is portraying his trip as an export mission and bringing with him a party of business executives to prove it, his South Korean hosts are quietly con-

fident that with last year's huge trade deficit and steps already taken, such as opening the Korean stock exchange to foreign investments, they will be able to resist any more trade pressure. They are adamant that nothing is going to open their rice market.

Farmers held scattered demonstrations yesterday to remind Mr Bush and their government that rice imports are unacceptable. In the past few days consumers and civic groups have issued statements opposing market opening for agricultural products. In an election year the government is all but certain not to commit political suicide by giving any ground on this issue, and is playing up the security aspects of the visit.

In his talks with President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea, Mr Bush is sure to be told what South Korea expects from his big brother to move forward the process of reunifying this bitterly divided nation. He is likely to be reminded that this is a South Korean matter, but that America still has much to contribute by pushing for international inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities and holding out the hope to the increasingly isolated regime in Pyongyang of rewards for good behaviour.

The US has already agreed to allow North Korea, which is technically an enemy nation, to inspect its military bases at the same time as the South inspects suspected nuclear facilities, such as the one at Yongbyong. In the North, South Korea has also renounced any means of making a nuclear weapon, such as reprocessing facilities, and the North did the same in the December 31 accord.

Forced to compromise by the changes on the international front in 1991 and their domestic problems — elections in the South during an economic downturn and economic collapse in the North along with the loss of its allies — the two Koreas drew up the accords in an amazing display of concord, but the real challenge is translating the vague contents into tangible progress towards unification.



Roh: will press Bush on unification process

Leading article, page 17



Making her mark: Naomi Yanase, aged six, struggling with a big writing-brush as she took part in a new year's calligraphy contest in Tokyo yesterday. About 7,700 calligraphers competed in the event

Marcos 'befuddled by drugs' before downfall

FROM REUTER IN MANILA

FERDINAND Marcos, the former president of the Philippines, was a compulsive pill-taker befuddled by prescribed drugs and undergoing regular kidney dialysis when he fell from power in 1986, a new book claims.

The book discloses that Marcos's only son, Ferdinand, donated one of his kidneys for transplant to his father in August 1983. Marcos's body rejected the organ after 48 hours, it says. Another kidney, from a nephew, was transplanted 15 months later. It functioned for four years, but collapsed in 1989, just before Marcos died, the book says.

The book, *Ferdinand E. Marcos, Malacanang to Makiki* (the Honolulu suburb which was his last home) was written by Colonel Arturo Arzuza, an aide who served Marcos for 21 years. It says Marcos started to undergo

haemodialysis in 1979. During foreign visits he would disappear from public view for four-hour dialysis sessions. Arzuza claims that Marcos would take pills compulsively, gulping down large amounts of vitamins.

The book, published in Manila recently, describes how aides burnt and shredded documents, packed jewellery and bundles of money in bags and boxes, and gave their allies a last, sad salute as he left the palace just before it was overrun by "people power".

Arzuza writes: "He seemed befuddled. Because of the medicines and the constant sedatives, he was unfocused much of the time. Even with things disintegrating swiftly, he seemed to live in the past."

The book claims that Washington was involved in the anti-Marcos revolt and quotes the former president

as saying, while the rebellion was in progress, "the Americans are in on this".

The book describes Marcos groping from hallway to bedroom, "a sick and tired old man who wanted only a little peace", as the four-day rebellion spread. At one point, Arzuza says, he shouted at Marcos, urging him to act, but the president looked at him coldly before retiring to his room.

The book describes Marcos's efforts, while in exile, to seek asylum in another country. But Washington thwarted them, it says. In 1987, after an abortive coup in Manila by troops loyal to Marcos, three officials of the American State Department visited Marcos in Makiki and told him "in the nakedest language possible" to abandon all hope of returning to Manila. Marcos was "completely crushed", it says.

Talks in balance as Arabs stay away

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI negotiators set off last night to resume scheduled peace talks in Washington, but their counterparts in four Arab delegations vowed to stay at home in protest at the threatened deportation of a dozen Palestinian activists from the occupied territories.

The postponement and threatened boycott by the Arab side do not augur well for the peace process, particularly since they appeared to follow the pattern set at the talks in Washington last month, when the Israeli side arrived a week late. The present impasse, caused by Israel's decision on Thursday to expel 12 Palestinians suspected of masterminding attacks on Israelis, is not expected to put an end to the American-led peace initiative, but has hardened positions on both sides and ruled out progress in the near future. Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman, who was criticised yesterday by Palestinian hardliners for staying in the delegation, said: "I think the more Israel persists in this, the more difficult it will be to pursue a peace process."

At yesterday's Israeli cabinet meeting, there was broad approval for the expulsion decision, which has been condemned by the United States and other powers. The United Nations Security Council is expected to debate a resolution on the matter today.

● Beirut: An unknown gunman yesterday killed one of Yasser Arafat's intelligence chiefs in Sidon. Hussein Selim Suleiman, also known as Abu Selim, was murdered in front of his wife and daughter (Al-Jaber writes).

Abu Selim controlled the intelligence branch in Lebanon of Fatah, the PLO's main guerrilla organisation. His killing was seen as another episode in the struggle between Mr Arafat and the growing fundamentalist movements inside the Palestinian refugee camps.

Carey brings counsel of hope

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM

DR GEORGE Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, succeeded yesterday in overcoming the effects of the current cold snap and the Middle East's tortuous political landscape. Arriving in the Holy City to mark the 150th anniversary of the first Anglican bishop to Jerusalem, Dr Carey first had to negotiate a hurdle of almost biblical proportions.

On his journey overland from Amman, the Archbishop was confronted by the Jordan river, normally little more than a sluggish stream, but yesterday transformed by recent rain and snow into a torrent which broke its banks, closing the Allenby bridge crossing to the West Bank.

Israeli and Jordanian military authorities opened a second crossing point upstream at the Adam bridge, making the Archbishop five hours late for his sermon at St George's Anglican cathedral in east Jerusalem.

During his visit, the Archbishop will meet Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, President Herzog and Teddy Kollek, the mayor of Jerusalem. Yesterday he held talks with a delegation of Palestinian leaders headed by Faisal Husseini, the most prominent figure in the occupied territories.

In spite of the delay, and the political minefield of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Archbishop appeared initially to have overcome successfully the problems of offering constructive Christian advice without leaving the impression that he is either an ally or a potential enemy.

"I find myself caught up in the pain of different communities," he said. "I think of the Jewish people, who have passed through so much and who have returned to the home of their faith, but who still fear for their security."

"But I also think of the Palestinian community, often ignored and overlooked. This is your home too. Both communities have a right to belong here, and each community should recognise that right in the other."

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Charles Bremner

Stockbroker makes a killing in the car wars

Parking in Manhattan has always driven motorists to distraction. Ignore one of those signs threatening "Do Not Even Think of Parking Here" and your car will be snatched off the street by privately operated tow-trucks and delivered to the police pound. The only alternative to paying up to £20 a day in a private garage is to join battle for the few legal spots, a process which can sometimes end in fistcuffs and even bullets.

In one of the city's more curious rituals, pyjama-clad residents can be seen leaping into the streets before dawn to move their cars in compliance with alternate-side rules which allow sweepers to pass and ensure that nobody leaves a car permanently parked. Now a local entrepreneur has come up with a novel scheme to help frustrated drivers — a parking spot brokerage.

A payment of \$75 (£42) buys membership of the Street Parking Clearance Corp, run by Val Faria, a former stockbroker, in the Upper East Side, a congested residential

district. When Motorist A is about to pull away from the curb, he calls Mr Faria to tell him his departure time. Mr Faria then passes the information to Motorist B, who is looking for a spot, and sends him to Motorist A's spot. B gives Mr Faria \$9 for the privilege of acquiring the space and he passes on \$4 to A.

The city authorities say there is nothing illegal in parking brokerage, but there is a catch. It is illegal to prevent "non-members" from taking a legal spot.

Mr Faria is coy about how many people are working for him, but he points out that members are making a profit by spotting empty places and then handing them over for payment to needy drivers.

Cession of a parking space is by no means the end of a New York driver's travails. Theft and vandalism against cars is so rampant that many New Yorkers simply leave the doors open and leave a sign saying "everything stolen already". That way would-be thieves refrain from smashing the windows when they

want to use the car as a bedroom or lavatory, a routine occurrence at night.

Thanks to these conditions, many New Yorkers forgo the American birthright of car ownership and hire their vehicles when they need them. On Friday afternoons the queues at Manhattan rental

counters take on the air of a singles bar for young professionals. The special place of the hire car in local affections explains the furore which has been raging over the weekend after Hertz, the biggest company, announced that New Yorkers were such bad and dishonest drivers, and the local laws so unfair to the company, that New Yorkers would have to pay a surcharge of as much as \$56 a day.

The news has triggered protest marches by usually blasé citizens and attempts by city officials to throw Hertz out of its lucrative offices at the city's airports. The company says its action is strictly common sense.

New Yorkers are far more likely to run into something or steal the car than non-New Yorkers, and the state makes matters worse by operating a "vicarious liability" law under which the hire company can be sued for damage done by a customer. In one recent case, a Brooklyn customer lent his Hertz car to an under-age, unlicensed

driver who then hit a pedestrian. Hertz was ordered by the courts to pay \$2.5 million in damages.

Capital punishment may be called for in the American Constitution, but condemned men on California's death row are insisting that it cannot deprive them of the right to procreate.

In a lawsuit, 14 of the prisoners at San Quentin prison have demanded tens of thousands of dollars in damages for pain, suffering and emotional distress because the state is not allowing them to have their wives and girlfriends inseminated with their semen.

Carter King, a lawyer for the men, said: "Not only are they being sentenced to die, but future generations of their family are also being executed."

He said the state authorities could have no fears about security with artificial insemination, as they might with conjugal visits. "These frozen sperm will not arm themselves with machineguns and take dad over the wall," he said.

Archer's mission delayed

BY HAZHEF TEIMOURIAN

JEFFREY Archer, the author, who is visiting the Kurdish area of Iraq to investigate the fate of the funds he helped to raise last year for Kurdish refugees, was trapped by heavy snow in the mountains in the allied enclave to the east of Zakho yesterday. He was forced to postpone his planned talks with Masoud Barzani, one of the two principal Kurdish leaders.

Mr Archer is planning to meet Mr Barzani in the town of Shaqlawa. He also plans to meet Jalal Talabani, the other Kurdish leader, in the city of Sulaymaniyah during a week-long stay. Mr Archer's party was welcomed to Zakho by several hundred Kurds who made veiled references to the way some of the £57 million aid raised at a rock concert in London last May had been spent.

NEW YORK POST

PARKING SPOTS FOR SALE

Ex-Wall Street with selling spaces on the Upper East Side

Proud Russians resent 'charity' from rich West

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE initial failure of the Western food aid effort to Russia may be due to bureaucracy, incompetence, corruption — or all three. In addition, there is extreme public sensitivity here about charity from the "rich" West as Russians do not want to be seen as beggars who will accept anything.

Last winter, KGB officials found a receptive audience when they accused Western governments and charities of off-loading sub-standard food and grain to the Soviet Union in the guise of aid shipments. At the time, the allegations seemed intended to cast aspersions on the then largely private Western aid effort and explain why many

of the goods failed to reach those who needed them. But the disinformation was widely believed.

The beef which arrived here at the weekend was the first British contribution of meat to a European Community programme that will attempt to trigger market mechanisms in Moscow and St Petersburg. Arrangements were being made for meat to be auctioned to local wholesalers and shop managers for sale in the cities' shops. The proceeds from the auctions will be used for a variety of social support schemes to be controlled jointly by EC and the cities' officials.

The meat sales have a dual purpose: they are intended to

ensure that consumers have something to buy as prices rise to market levels and also to prevent the distortion of the market by speculators holding back domestic production in the hope of still higher prices. Speaking last week, Michael Emerson, the EC ambassador in Moscow, said that this form of "market intervention" had been effective during Poland's "shock therapy" programme in plugging the gap between the announcement of price rises and the appearance of goods in the shops. The Moscow and St Petersburg auctions are expected to begin in the next two weeks.

At present, in spite of up to tenfold price rises for many cuts of meat on Thursday, little has come on to the open market. In contrast, the peasant markets have abundant supplies at prices which reflect not only their scarcity value but also, it is widely believed, a system of unofficial cartels which price liberalisation has done nothing to break. At the Moscow central market at the weekend, good quality beef was selling for between 250 and 350 roubles for 2lb, depending on the cut, (£116 at the official rate of exchange or £4.30 at the tourist rate), which is more than half the average monthly wage and three times more than the new price in state shops.

Another three republics, Kazakhstan, Turkmenia and Moldavia, were poised to free prices today following the example set by Russia, Ukraine, Belarusia, Armenia and Kirgizia last week. Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are also planning to free prices, leaving Azerbaijan as the only member of the new commonwealth with the old system of heavy subsidies. The non-Russian republics say that Moscow's action forced their hand. Russia's dominance would have meant that scarce goods would simply flow into Russia, leaving consumers elsewhere in an even worse position than before.

● Paris: Republics of the former Soviet Union will experience increasing social tension as economic reforms are pushed through, but things should look up by 1993, Tomas Alibegovic, the official in charge of servicing the external debt, said yesterday.

Mr Alibegovic, the former deputy chairman of the Vneshekonombank, the old Soviet Bank for Foreign Trade, said inflation would continue to increase over the next few months, in line with the freeing of prices. "We shall have strikes, demonstrations, perhaps more than before as the present situation is difficult. But it won't go as far as an all-out social explosion," he said.

The new commonwealth had inherited from the Soviet Union an external debt of between \$70 billion and \$80 billion (up to \$43 billion). But the republics could hope to retrieve about \$30 billion of the money owed the Soviet Union by a number of debtors, including India, Libya, Syria, Algeria and Vietnam. Several of these had started to pay back part or all of their debts already.

Speaking of Cuba, itself in very serious economic trouble, he said that Moscow did not expect any funds back from Havana. (AFP)



Ring of fire: a man at San Diego, California, watching a solar eclipse at 01.50 GMT yesterday during which a circle of sunlight surrounded the Moon's dark disc (AP reports from San Diego). The Sun, 82 per cent eclipsed,

seemed surrounded by a green border and reddish sparks of light. The rare annular solar eclipse observed at San Diego could not be seen in many places west of the Rockies and in the Pacific because of cloud cover.

Besieged Georgia leader makes referendum offer

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN TBILISI

REBELS pounded President Gamsakhurdia's stronghold with rocket and machinegun fire yesterday, and he offered to hold a referendum on demands that he resign.

But Zviad Gamsakhurdia, speaking to reporters in his makeshift bunker under the parliament building, gave no indication that his determination to hold power had been weakened by two weeks of fighting that has cost at least 73 lives. "This is not a democratic opposition, this is an armed, terrorist junta," he said, referring to the military council that claimed control over Georgia last week.

At least one small rocket scored a direct hit yesterday on the parliament building. But the sturdy marble structure was barely damaged. Mr Gamsakhurdia's troops, estimated at 300 to 500 men, defended the building with a tank and several armoured personnel carriers.

The Georgian president, who is 52, looking pale and worried but speaking calmly in English, said the rebels had cut all telephone lines to his stronghold and were attempting to shut off food and medicine. But he said they were not strong enough to storm it.

The rebels accuse Mr Gamsakhurdia of seizing dictatorial powers, shutting down opposition newspapers and violating human rights since he was elected last May. About 1,500 Gamsakhurdia supporters defied the military council's ban on demonstrations and held a rally yesterday outside Tbilisi's railway station, well away from the battle zone. On Friday, a similar rally was dispersed by about 15 opposition gunmen, who threw smoke bombs into the crowd and opened fire with automatic rifles, killing at least two demonstrators.

Gamsakhurdia supporters, holding clenched fists above their heads, chanted "Down with the junta" during yesterday's rally, which remained peaceful and ended after an hour. Entrances to the square were guarded by neutral militiamen and demonstrators said they were not afraid. "I fear for Georgia, not for myself," said Kacha Kochatadze, a law student. "If the military council gains power, there will be a new Lebanon in Georgia."

The military commander, Gia Karkashvili, speaking on rebel-held Georgian television, said the ban on demonstrations was intended to

preserve order. He noted that both pro- and anti-Gamsakhurdia rallies were banned, and contended that Mr Gamsakhurdia had little popular support. "Today in Tbilisi you can hardly find 500 people who are loyal to the president," he said.

Mr Gamsakhurdia said he was confident he would win a referendum on remaining president. But he was not optimistic that the rebel leadership would accept his offer. "If they speak about resignation of the president, it must be solved by referendum. Yes, I am ready. But they do not want that. They know they will be defeated. They want to take power by violence," he declared.

The Tass news agency reported yesterday that Armenia has offered political asylum to Mr Gamsakhurdia and his family.

The rebels, in a bid to broaden their support, yesterday freed Tseret Kulumbegov, who was jailed by Mr Gamsakhurdia's government for his activities in South Ossetia, a small corner of the republic where an ethnic minority is trying to break away from Georgia.

Diary, page 16

UN presses on with Croatia buffer plans

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN NEW YORK AND TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

THE United Nations moved ahead with plans yesterday to put a force of 10,000 peacekeepers into Serbian-held Croatia, but Cyrus Vance, the envoy who negotiated the latest truce, said a final go-ahead would depend on the main combatants holding their fire for days or weeks.

As UN officials grew cautiously optimistic about Friday's ceasefire, the 15th so far in the Yugoslav conflict, the Belgrade government told European states it would not accept the participation of troops from any EC member. Western diplomats said.

In Yugoslavia, federal forces yesterday handed over the military port of Split to the Croat authorities along with 250 tonnes of arms and ammunition in part of a deal which is seeing the gradual withdrawal of the Yugoslav military from the whole of the republic.

Zagreb radio reported that, before leaving in two cargo ships for Montenegro, soldiers destroyed their vehicles, and that as they sailed the Croatian flag was raised over the old naval base. The Yugoslav army handed over the port of Lora and the confiscated Croatian arms as isolated clashes marred the ceasefire.

Mr Vance yesterday briefed Boutros Boutros Ghali, the new UN secretary-general, on the outline of a peace-monitoring plan which will be reviewed by the security council on Wednesday. He declined to say whether he had recommended deployment of a UN force, but noted that this would depend on the combatants observing the ceasefire. "One can tell, if you watch over a period of days and perhaps even weeks, as to whether or not it is going to stick," he said.

Britain, which is president of the security council this month, is co-ordinating plans for the force, which will include 8,000 lightly armed infantrymen who will patrol three UN-protected areas in Croatia and set up checkpoints to prevent military formations or arms and explosives from entering the areas.

Croatia, Serbia and the Yugoslav army have accepted the UN offer to send forces to oversee the battle regions, as well as agreeing to withdraw their own military and hand over to local police forces. The main hitch so far was the refusal of Milan Babic, the president of the Krajina enclave in Croatia, to abide by the agreement. Some Croat units are also said to be unwilling to lay down their arms. However, Mr Vance said in New York yesterday that he expected these issues to be resolved.

The reluctance of Belgrade to accept any EC troops was a clear signal of disapproval of the European decision, led by Germany, to move towards recognising the independence of Croatia and Slovenia. Troops are expected to come from Canada, America and traditionally neutral member countries, although no invitations have yet been extended.

For the UN, inserting a force in the civil strife represents one of its biggest and riskiest deployments. Similar forces, cobbled together hastily to act as a buffer in Cyprus 28 years ago and in Lebanon in 1978, proved powerless to halt offensives by determined

combatants. The Turkish army swept the blue helmets aside in their invasion of Cyprus in 1974, and the Israeli army rolled over and through the UN positions in Lebanon in 1982. Though usually called temporary or interim, the peace-monitoring forces have often become permanent, effectively ratifying a partition.

One version of the Yugoslav plan which has attracted attention is a proposal to run the Serbian areas of Croatia as UN-protected areas for 25 years or longer. However, diplomats say the security council is likely to approve an initial six-month term, if the ceasefire holds, while pressing for an urgent political resolution of the conflict.

Unicef worker killed

Nairobi: An employee of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) was killed and two others were wounded yesterday in an attack on a Unicef centre at the port of Bosaso in northern Somalia. An employee of the aid organisation Care escaped injury.

Because of the fighting, in which thousands have been killed or wounded, most aid workers have left the country. But United Nations workers were ordered to return because of the plight of the population. James Jonah, a special UN envoy, said that he saw little hope of obtaining a ceasefire.

Terror game

Johannesburg: A two-year-old boy in Soweto township was set alight by playmates who had seen a mob burning a man to death and were reenacting the incident. The boy was rescued but he will be scarred for life. (AFP)

Etna threat

Rome: Rivers of white-hot lava flowing down the slopes of Sicily's Mount Etna continued to threaten villages in the foothills. Army units working round the clock have dug trenches and erected vast earthworks to deflect the lava.

Chad pull-out

Paris: France is to withdraw paratroop reinforcements sent to Chad after a rebellion by troops loyal to the deposed president, Hissene Habré. The revolt has now been crushed by government forces. (Reuters)

Condition fair

La Jolla, California: Mother Teresa's doctors upgraded the condition of the missionary, aged 81, from serious to fair. She was admitted to a clinic here with heart problems. (Reuters)

Troy revisited

Sydney: Workers hid inside a metal Trojan horse to seize back a heavy transport plant repossessed by their boss's bankers. Once inside the plant, they spilled out and the security guards, outnumbered, withdrew. The "horse" was used by farmers protesting against President Bush last week. (AFP)

Salute to Cossack past as Ukraine troops take oath

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV



Changing loyalties: a former Soviet soldier pledges to serve the people of Ukraine

UKRAINE'S founding national guard regiments yesterday pledged their oaths of loyalty to the newly independent republic, accentuating the rift between Kiev and Moscow over the future of the former Soviet Union's military apparatus.

To the strains of Cossack marches and the melancholy national anthem "Ukraine has not yet died," 500 men from the Novorossiysk regiment in Kiev marched past the republic's blue-and-yellow flag, consigning their Soviet military traditions to the regimental museum room. At other barracks in the Ukraine a further 10,000 national guardsmen took their oaths.

The timing of yesterday's pledges of loyalty will not endear the Ukrainian leadership to Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, the commonwealth defence minister, who at a press conference at the weekend, described Ukraine's step-by-step plans

to commandeer the Soviet military machine on its territory as "excessively hasty". The marshal said that the situation throughout the commonwealth was "critical". He is expected in Kiev within the next day for talks with his Ukrainian counterpart, Air Force General Konstantin Morozov.

His demands concerning a single Commonwealth of Independent States' oath and strategic command's control of the Black Sea Fleet will be politely refused. Staff at the Ukrainian defence ministry took their republican oath of loyalty on Friday, while on Saturday General Morozov emphasised that Ukraine considered itself to be a "naval power". A senior Ukrainian defence committee member said yesterday: "Shaposhnikov will leave here with empty hands."

Today Orthodox Christmas eve will be marked with ceremonies throughout

Ukraine granting honourable discharges to the 20 per cent of Soviet officers from other republics who have refused to take the Ukrainian "shilling". Army units here are expected to start taking their pledges within a fortnight.

Only the light-blue sashes worn by flag bearers, and the golden lettering NG on the red epaulettes of privates and officers at the Florivsky barracks, yesterday distinguished the new national guard troops from their former status as interior ministry soldiers.

However, although the appearances may be temporarily still Soviet, the traditions are already changing. Appealing to the memory of Ukraine's Cossack ancestors, whose power succumbed under Moscow's yoke, Major-General Volodymyr Kukharets, commander-in-chief of the national guard, called on his troops to be "trustworthy defend-

ers of our native mother Ukraine".

He went on: "We are witnesses of an historic event. I believe you will honourably earn the trust of the people, renewing and building the military traditions of our ancestors, the Zaporozhian Cossacks, whose glory passed to us over the centuries."

Parents, girlfriends and families were less sure of the national guard's future. "We don't care if it's the Red or the Ukrainian army, as long as there isn't a war, we don't want a war," said one woman, watching her 18-year-old son sign his oath of allegiance.

The oaths marked a symbolic turning point for both Ukraine's and the former Soviet armed forces. The Novorossiysk regiment, the senior unit in the New Guard, provided sentries for Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt at the 1945 Yalta conference.

Delors urges nuclear force for the EC

BY PHILIP JACOBSON

JACQUES Delors, the president of the European Commission, ventured into French defence policy yesterday when he advocated that the nation's cherished nuclear strike force should eventually be put at the disposal of the European Community.

"If we are really on the way towards a political entity with a common foreign policy on basic issues, then I consider that France's nuclear force should be available to serve that policy," he told French television viewers. Since M Delors is now increasingly mentioned in France as a potential Socialist candidate to succeed President Mitterrand, his remarks are certain to attract wide attention here.

The independence of the nuclear force de frappe, composed of land-based missiles, bombers and submarines, has been central to French defence policy since General de Gaulle pulled the country

out of the military wing of Nato 25 years ago. To judge by opinion polls, the broad national consensus on defence has not altered significantly in recent years, nor have conservative or Socialist governments sought to change the public's views.

Although President Mitterrand has long been committed to the idea of a common defence policy for the EC, and was delighted when last month's Maastricht summit agreed to what amounts to a "European pillar" in the Atlantic alliance, he has never raised in public the possibility that France might lose control of its nuclear armory. For M Delors to have done so could turn out to be imprudent, even though he took care to remind viewers that the present EC defence strategy envisages the formation of a military force that could operate alongside, or independently of, Nato armies.

ARCHITECTURE

Colour him a non-specialist

So avant-garde are Will Alsop buildings that some are hardly recognisable as buildings at all. His Visitors' Centre at Cardiff Bay is like an immensely long, squashed Swiss roll, raised on deckchair supports. On Friday, this remarkable object was given an official blessing, chosen by the Royal Institute of British Architects as one of six National Architecture Award winners.

Alsop has also put forward designs for a new Cardiff Bay tidal barrage, which he envisages as "one gigantic artwork" with colourful hotels, pavilions and fishing piers along the structure. But that lies in the future, whereas the Visitors' Centre has been up and running for 12 months, attracting 100,000 visitors. If audacity counts for anything, it surely stands a good chance of being chosen, later this month, as the RIBA's building of the year. Examples of Alsop's boldness are dotted all over Europe. The roof of a supermarket now rising outside Caen in Normandy looks like a giant place lazily in the shallows (he says the idea comes from his son's Manta Force spaceship). For Berlin's Potsdamerplatz he has proposed a series of elongated structures looking like high-tech animals clustered round a watering hole. His forms are inspired by windsocks, cigars, torpedoes and zeppelins.

Inevitably the shock is sometimes too much for sensitive souls. Immediately after he won the competition for a

Will Alsop, who won a national design award on Friday, talks to Marcus Binney



Alsop: not convinced that "form follows function"

new departmental headquarters in Marseille, the mayor told him sharply: "The penis must go".

Nevertheless that building remains as extraordinary as anything imagined by the creators of Dan Dare. "This will be my Pompidou Centre," Alsop says.

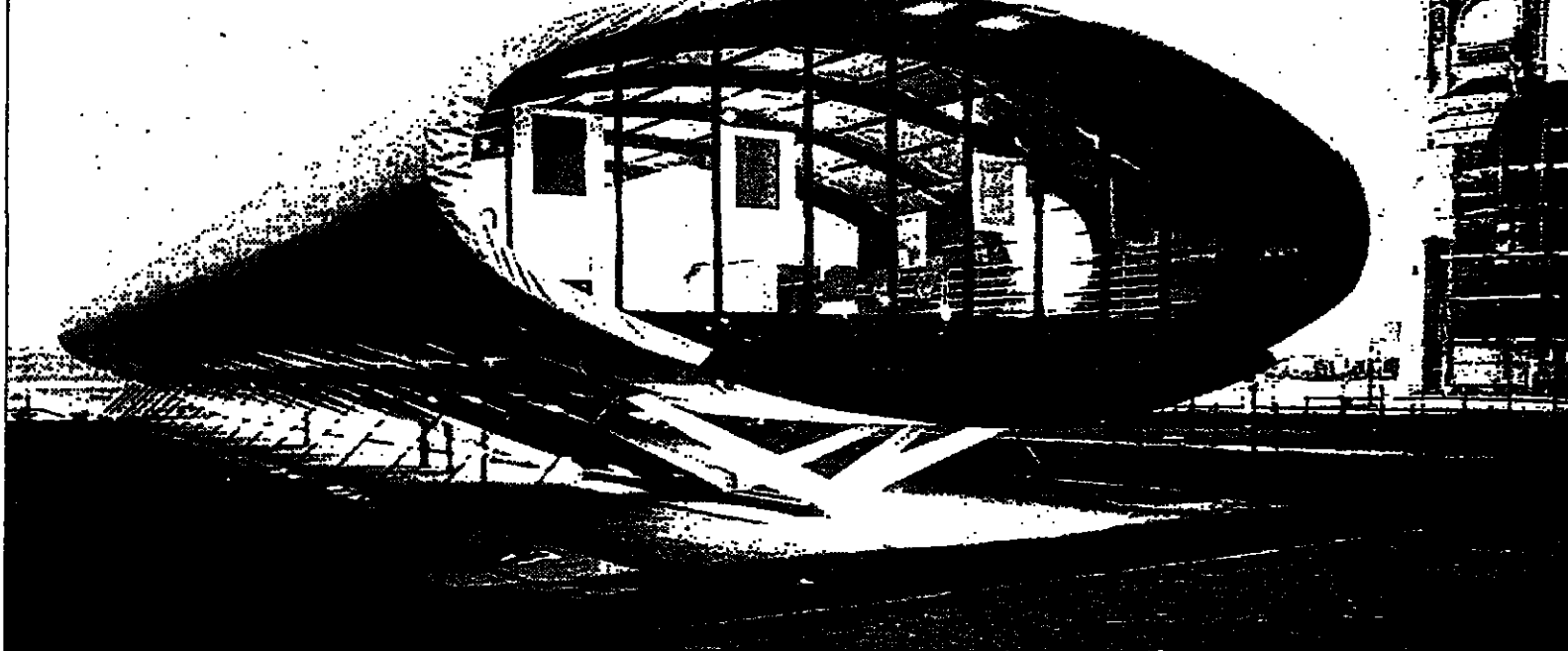
At 43 he is ten years younger than Norman Foster and Richard Rogers, and feels keenly that the way they and Jim Stirling were lionised in the Eighties proved a block to his generation. "I keep telling myself that Sir John Soane won the Bank of England at 27. In Britain we are always told you never get

anything until you are 40." Now he has an avalanche of ideas. "I'd love to design a hospital. Society has this idea that you have to be a specialist to design a hospital. The result is that nothing changes. Doctors, nurses, patients can demand something better, but they need an inspiring example to point to."

His trim new floating fire station on the Thames opposite parliament nearly fell foul of the same "specialist" syndrome. The design had been agreed when the chief engineer exclaimed: "There's a hitch. You're not on the approved list." Fortunately the engineer knew how to pull the right string.

Alsop develops the initial forms of his buildings in large oil paintings, many of which hang in his office. "With painting, there are no rules. I'm free to explore. Increasingly I find that if buildings work aesthetically, they work functionally. At architectural school we were taught Corbusier's dictum that 'form follows function'. I fight against it. In Corbusier's own late work you find a fantastic freedom too."

As he paints more and more, colour becomes increasingly important in his architecture. "It's not the colour coding of different parts, as in the Pompidou. It's colour for its own sake. Rogers and Foster, I find, are going increasingly for a very controlled use of colour, for transparency or cool greys and whites."



The Cardiff Bay Visitors' Centre: designed by Alsop Lyall and Stormer, it won an award from the Royal Institute of British Architects

Alsop once again is rebelling. "For me only Louis Barragan, who worked in Mexico, has explored colour in architecture to its full potential." At Marseille the whole building will be a matt blue, with the colour baked onto the glass outside.

Alsop feels architects are partly to blame for their loss of status, though not for the reason one might expect. "The profession is afraid of taking on responsibilities. For example, they fought against accepting collateral warranties like chartered surveyors. Architects should be responsible for site safety. It's another challenge which informs the

process of design." His concern is to have responsibility and control of a building all the way through to completion.

Currently he is involved in a project for the riverfront at Bordeaux. "Now the ships have gone, the *raison d'être* for those great classical buildings has vanished." So the mayor commissioned ideas from six highly individual architects. Jean Nouvel was given the task of creating a dialogue between the two banks of the Garonne. Calatrava asked to design an adventurous new bridge. Alsop's task was the river itself, and he has conceived a

submerged structure described (with overtones of Debussy) as "la cathédrale engloutie".

Linked to the bank at three points, a long chain of linked transparent sections will lie on the river bed and move with snake-like subtlety in response to the river flow; it will slowly disappear as the tide comes in.

In Britain Alsop has designed a new station at Tottenham Hale, the interchange between the Stansted airport rail link and the Victoria Line. Originally this was to have a continuous

tunnel roof in fabric wrapped round the raised tracks in a powerful aerodynamic curve. But an article appeared in America saying that the Teflon he proposed to use could, at extreme temperatures, give off noxious fumes.

"We calculated it would only happen in the heat of an oil tanker fire," he says, "but this came just after the King's Cross disaster." The building is now an elegant transparent glass and white steel box, with the curved tunnel moved to the entrance.

In the Berlin competition he has beaten Norman Foster into the final five (the others are all Germans) and is

therefore likely to be invited to do one of the buildings. With few exceptions, he says, he does not enter competitions in Britain. "Here you are expected to do a vast amount of work for little or even no return at all. In France or Germany, once you are on the invited shortlist the fee is good and pays your time and expenses."

Now that there are calls for more competitions in Britain, the question is whether clients will be willing to pay enough to attract individualists like Alsop. If they do, the sparks will certainly fly: Alsop's buildings tend to outrage and delight in equal measure.

THEATRE

From the big screen to a small stage

Irish drama continues to assert a strong presence in London with the long-delayed British premiere tomorrow of Tom Murphy's *The Gigli Concert*, which follows *Dancing at Lughnasa* and the *Hedda Gabler* starring Fiona Shaw, directed by Deborah Warner, as the latest Abbey Theatre success to travel from Dublin to London. On this occasion, Murphy's 1983 play is being completely re-conceived for London with a new leading man (Barry Foster), and a director — Karel Reisz — best known for his work in the cinema, from *Isadora* over 25 years ago to the 1989 *Everybody Wins*.

The play also allows Londoners another glimpse of a writer who made his mark in Britain 30 years ago with *A Whistle In The Dark*, but who has been seen only intermittently in the decades

Veteran film-maker Karel Reisz has been tempted back to the theatre to direct the British premiere of Tom Murphy's Irish "masterpiece", *The Gigli Concert*. Matt Wolf reports

since. This despite the fact that on home turf the 56-year-old Murphy is considered one of a seminal trio of Irish playwrights, alongside Brian Friel and Hugh Leonard.

"It's like revisiting a very good friend, but it's not an exercise in nostalgia," Murphy says of the play. The story of an English confidence trickster, a Dublin-based psychologist named King, and his client who yearns to sing like the Italian tenor Beniamino Gigli, the play arrives trailing a reputation that was confirmed for many in its Abbey Theatre revival, directed by Patrick Mason, last March.

Long, steeped in rhetoric,

and as densely rhythmic as the arias it draws upon, *The Gigli Concert* has been acclaimed as Murphy's masterpiece.

But the author of such verbal cavalcades as *Batagangaire* and *Conversations On A Homecoming* resists such praise. "The word masterpiece is a terrible one for a writer who is still making his living. It is a great word for a painter, but I am not sure audiences want to see modern masterpieces. Modesty does not come into it; the fact is, I like the play, but there are other plays that, without consciously thinking about it, I regard as more favoured children."

The Gigli Concert has long been mooted for London, both in the West End with a management who kept the rights tied up for years, and also for Michael Bogdanov's English Shakespeare Company. Its present production was made possible once the West End rights lapsed, which enabled the media artists' directors (an McDiarmid and Jonathan Kent) to pick up the play, pairing Murphy with director Reisz.

"They just sent it to me, and I liked the play, the decision was purely that," Reisz says in

a separate interview, clearly dazed after a barnstorming discussion with Murphy that kept both men up until 3am. With only one previous theatre credit (John Guare's *Gardenia*, Off-Broadway), Reisz acknowledges he is treading on virgin territory, and he is quick to pinpoint the different requirements of directing for film and theatre.

"In the theatre, you serve the author in a very different way," says Reisz. "In film, the actual language through which the audience receives the prose, if you will, is pictures. The film is the film whereas a play is a version of the text; the text exists before and after the production, so one's whole sense of responsibility is quite different. It isn't you that's out there; it's your version of something that somebody else has done."

Murphy feels that the present partnership "adds to the adventure of the play, and obviously the gamble. I didn't know Karel until we met some months ago, and I didn't know Barry Foster." Based in Dublin since 1970, after spending most of the Sixties in London, he admits to having lost touch with the British theatre, working in Ireland largely with Garry Hynes, first at the Druid in

Galway, and now at the Abbey, where she will revive *Conversations On A Homecoming* next month.

"My relationships with various directors, particularly Garry, have been very special and important," Murphy says. "But then I think I haven't had much choice in the matter. There aren't that many directors in Ireland in the first place."

Reisz, in turn, welcomes the change of pace in a career that went from documentary film-making to features, even as colleagues such as Lindsay Anderson were keeping a hand in the theatre. "I have twice been offered things before, but not being a theatre director, I would get the bottom of the pile, so directing a play never seemed like a real possibility."

He is an apt choice, he feels, for the current play, given its focus on actors and the word. "I would not dare to do something with complicated choreography," he says, finding in his own work an equivalent interest to the attention Murphy pays to performers. "Acting is central in my films, and I am not particularly visual. When I make films, I am not one of those with an image in my head; it's the other way round, so working with actors is a large proportion of what I do."

Reisz points out that the time involved in theatre has



Shared emphasis on the performers: *The Gigli Concert's* director Karel Reisz (right) and author Tom Murphy

its upside, as well. "From the point of view of one's life on a day-to-day basis, the whole thing takes two months instead of two years." Would he like to be on the list of directors regularly considered for stage work? Reisz

nods in assent and says: "I just feel if a text comes along that is great, yes, I would like to have a go."

The Gigli Concert previews tonight at the Almeida Theatre, London N1 (071-359 4404) and opens tomorrow.

BRIEFING

Branches all over

MIKHAIL Baryshnikov, who has not danced in Britain since 1985, is returning to London in April for the British premiere of his "White Oak Dance Project". White Oak was created in 1990 by the Russian classical dancer, in partnership with the New York-based choreographer Mark Morris as a showcase for contemporary American choreography. Named after the plantation in Florida owned by the arts patron Howard Gilman, where the troupe is based, White Oak Dance Project has already completed four sell-out tours in the United States. Baryshnikov and his company will perform at Sadler's Wells Theatre from April 2 to 12, presenting works by Martha Clarke, David Gordon, Lar Lubovitch, Meredith Monk and Mark Morris.

Northern light

BILL Brown, the chairman of Scottish Television, has been named to succeed Sir Alan Peacock as chairman of the Scottish Arts Council when he retires on April 1. Despite his media credentials, Brown has a solid background of service in the arts, having been on the boards of both Scottish Opera and the Museums Council. Although Brown takes over at a time when the SAC is enjoying a 14 per cent increase in its annual budget, Peacock says his successor will need to contend with the same problems he tried to tackle. "Although 80 per cent of Scots attend some art event during each year, the bulk of the council's funds still benefits only a very small minority of the population."

Last chance...

PETER Hall's genial revival of Molière's *Tartuffe*, with John Sessions a pretty unimpressive titular hypocrite, may not explain why some of the 17th-century religious wanted its author burned as a heretic. But it is worth seeing for a wonderfully flummoxed performance from Paul Edington as the respectable, duped hypochondriac in search of a cure-all. Ends Saturday at the Playhouse. (071-839 4401).

ARTS REVIEWS
Television, Music and Fringe Theatre
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Trained to teach?



First Appointments:
a 44-page guide for new teachers
in this Friday's TES.

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

75p

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Raising the pitch and profile of Purcell

Robert King, founder and director of The King's Consort, is in no doubt about Henry Purcell's stature. He has been at work for the past five years or so preparing the ground for the 300th anniversary, in 1995, of the English composer's death. By that time his group will have completed the second of two large Purcell projects for Hyperion Records.

"Purcell is our only really great composer and typically every other country is pretty about him. Now we're finally beginning to realise just how good he is, though you still can't get hold of so much of the music. The Purcell Society are doing what they can but they have no money. And half of Novello's complete Purcell edition is out of print. That lack of availability has meant a lot of hard labour for King, a former chorister and undergraduate at St John's College, Cambridge, who does his own research.

The first of the recording projects covers the 24 Odes in eight volumes, the last of which is to be released later in the year, deliberately overlapping the beginning of the second and larger enterprise, the entire church music. "The Odes span all of Purcell's career, from 1680

Stephen Pettitt
meets Robert King,
a champion of the
work of composer
Henry Purcell

to 1695, and consequently they give an insight into how his style develops. Purcell is completely unbothered by dull texts. It was a late 17th century idea that they went along to hear lovely sounds, and they got them. Every ode has at least one real gem in it. I'm quite sure the court adored these things, and not just because they were sycophantic texts saying how nice royalty were."

Whether 15 albums of church music — the first of which appears in March — will whet the present record-buying public's appetite remains to be seen. King, however, is confident that the quality of this material will also duly beguile. "The Chapel Royal choir, for which this music was written, operated on two fronts, sometimes with the full complement of vingt-quatre violons, but more often with just single strings, which meant two violins, viola, two bass violins and a couple of archlutes and chamber or-



Robert King: leads Consort. Clearly the choir was extremely good, but one of the interesting things about them which nobody has so far taken much notice of is the pitch at which they sang. "Scholars now agree that it was much higher than modern pitch, and a full tone higher than normal baroque pitch. If you play at that pitch, everything makes sense, and all the choir parts fit the voices. The bass parts

don't go into the sub-stratosphere, the tenors are in the middle of their range, the boys are using the brilliance of their voices rather than having to shove it all out in chest register, and it's the kind of proof that counter-tenors were used, because high tenors just couldn't sing up there."

As far as numbers of instruments are concerned, King is willing to mix his scholarship with personal taste and instinct. "There's no double bass, but lots of bass violin, whose range is a tone lower than the cello. My ruling is that you have as many bass violins as first violins, so we'll be using historically accurate a performance might be. If it doesn't sound right then we shouldn't do it. The music is far more important than one piece of historical evidence."

King's obviously deep commitment to Purcell does not mean he suffers from tunnel vision. Following a widely admired disc of Schütz's *Christmas Story*, his group this year will perform and record a 17th century Venetian ceremonial mass. King is also scheduled to conduct his first opera, Handel's *Ottone*, once in London in November before taking it to Japan. A Handel oratorio, *Judas Maccabaeus*, is to be recorded. He is increasingly tempted away with guest engagements which, if nothing else, provide financial security. "An operation like this in this country does tend to gobble up money. Our London concert, with no sponsorship or Arts Council grant, will drop £8,000, even with a full house. I shall have to pay that myself."

The King's Consort is at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (071-028 8800) on Wednesday at 7.45pm

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BOX OFFICE
FIRST CALL

Young, gifted and bewildered

When Fred Tate was one year old he could read newspapers. At four, he wrote poetry. Today he is composing operas for his waitress mother, painting intricate murals in oils, and is fascinated by quantum physics. He is only seven years old but spends sleepless nights worrying about the world, mortality and the decadence of society.

Fred Tate is the central character of *Little Man Tate*, a new film which marks the directing debut of the actress Jodie Foster (who also plays his mother). Fred, played by Adam Hann-Byrd, is an extraordinarily gifted boy who is isolated from his peers by his intelligence and sensitivity. His mother adores him but cannot explain to him what an electron is, and no one will come to his birthday parties. The child psychologist seems interested in him only as fodder for her research on geniuses.

To anyone else Fred might seem a freak but to the 20 children watching a preview of the film last Friday, his problems seemed more understandable. The film is being released next week, but the picture company has decided to give previews to selected gifted children, their teachers and parents.

"When the film came out in America people were only interested in it being Jodie Foster's first film," says Jon Anderson, the advertising and publishing director for Columbia Tri-star UK, which is distributing the film in Britain. "The fact that it was about the problems of being gifted was almost ignored. We decided to market the issue."

The company looked at the film *Rain Man*, which came out in 1988, and saw what it did to publicise autism — and vice versa. Autism became a debating point on television, in homes and in newspapers. People wanted to know more about the disability, and because of all the discussion the film got a higher profile. "We thought we would do the same but with gifted children. So we invited these families along to see if the film is representative of gifted children in Britain and bears any relevance to their problems," Mr Anderson says.

According to the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), about 2 per cent of the population in Britain are said to be gifted, in that they possess a rare talent, often in a single area such as mathematics or music, and are likely to have an IQ of more than 130 (100 is the average). About one half per cent of the population are multi-talented, like Fred.

Identifying gifted children

Jodie Foster's directing debut is a film about a child genius. Alice Thomson watches the reactions of gifted British children and their parents at a preview

proved more difficult than the film company first thought. Only two schools in Britain, Cademuir School in Scotland and Newion Prep in Baitersca, are devoted exclusively to gifted children, and they will be shown the film when they return to school later this month. The NAGC believes that perhaps no more than half of gifted children are identified, and many parents were unwilling to let their gifted children watch the film in case it made them feel like oddities. Families with gifted children were eventually found by different charities and organisations such as Mensa and the Potential Trust, set up to cater for gifted children.

Apart from a preponderance of small round spectacles, the children watching the 99-minute film all appeared utterly normal, rustling sweet papers and squirming on their seats. Occasionally a child would mutter the answer to a maths question (more often wrong than right), but none of them said anything shatteringly perceptive. After the film most of them remained monosyllabic, saying only: "Good."

Peter Newmark-Jones, a nine-year-old who is exceptional at maths as well as being more articulate than most of his peers, says: "I thought it was quite lifelike, because he was naughty as well as clever. I felt sorry for the boy. It is quite hard being clever because people think you are odd and you have few friends of your own age who can talk to you."

Peter's mother, Victoria Newmark-Jones, says: "Peter worries more, he is more perceptive and constantly wants to be stimulated. School is difficult because he gets bored so easily. Every child is expected to keep in line and follow a programme. But I don't want to send him to a special school like Fred in the film, because gifted children should learn to mix with all abilities, so he attends the local primary school. I think the film may help some parents to realise they have a gifted child."

Gifted children now grown up also found the film sympathetic. Sarah Evans, aged 21, was considered gifted as a child and is now a student at Oxford. She teaches at summer camps run by the Potential Trust. "The film is good because there is still a social stigma attached to children who are very bright. People are frightened of them, and few realise that they have specific problems just like any other minority. They think everything comes effortlessly to the gifted child but it does not. I got badly bullied at school, and it wasn't until I went to the summer camps and met other gifted children that I really began to enjoy myself," she says.

"I thought it was excellent," says Anne Allen, a teacher at a girls' comprehensive. "There were very few stones left unturned. They pointed out the difficulties gifted children have: getting friends, the loneliness they suffer, and the problems encountered by the parents of a gifted child."

"If Fred is left in his mixed ability class he could become disruptive, but if he goes to the special school the psychiatrist wants him to attend he may become alienated from real life. That is a problem all parents of gifted children have to worry about."

At a previous screening for a mixed ability group of teenagers, the overall verdict of the film was that it was boring because it didn't contain sex or violence. Billie Branche, an audience researcher for Columbia Tri-star UK, says: "Adults seem to feel that it falls between two categories; it is neither a documentary nor a feature. The film may help people to understand the problems if they bother to see it. But I just don't think it will pull the crowds in like *Rain Man* did."

According to Lyn Keen, the mother of two gifted children and North-West London co-ordinator for NAGC, the film would be unrealistic for a British audience. "In America they have a proper

system of schools and summer camps for the gifted. In Britain gifted children are supposed to muddle along in the education system and are rarely singled out for particular attention," she says. "High ability is often not identified or sufficiently challenged in this country, and children are not reaching their full potential. If the film encourages people to give to charities for the gifted or persuades someone in the government that gifted children need investment, it will have been worthwhile."

Dr Joan Freeman, a trained psychiatrist, is the president of the European Council for High Ability and an honorary lecturer at the University of London Institute. She has been studying gifted children for 20 years, and takes particular offence at the way the child psychiatrist (Dianne Wiest in the film) is portrayed. "She is seen as being devoid of emotions and a gorgon. No parent will want to send their child to be tested now," she says.

She thinks the film is "terrible. It is a sort of Disneyland of what it is like to be a gifted child and totally implausible. The child has apparently never played a piano, but miraculously performs a recital of Mozart. The first time he gets on a horse he can gallop without falling off, and with no tuition he can answer mathematical questions that would baffle a computer."

"This is the image that I set about 25 years ago trying to break, the stereotypical view that gifted children are freak-shows. Gifted and highly able children come in all shapes and sizes and personalities, and they can be extremely popular and have superb senses of humour. This film will throw the issue back into the Dark Ages. It will give gifted children a very negative self-image."

Dr Freeman has carried out a 15-year study of 200 outstanding pupils for her latest book, *Gifted Children Growing Up* (published by Cassell last September). "Gifted children have to be treated sensitively. The ending of *Little Man Tate* may seem happy but my guess is that the way this child is treated in the film, he could end up disturbed. He has a very low level of emotional reaction, no sense of humour, and far too much pressure on him to succeed."

In the film Fred says: "But all I want is someone to eat lunch with." As parents tucked into sandwiches after the screening, the children all seemed more interested in chasing each other round the film studios than pondering the fate of the world on their own.



Family ties: Adam Hann-Byrd, star of *Little Man Tate*, with his director and co-star, Jodie Foster

How American Indian healing rituals have come to Devon

On the warpath to peace

The locals are bewildered. At the Leaping Salmon in Horrobridge, Devon, the landlord says: "No one really knows what goes on at Grimstone Manor except that they have people prancing about in the nude. Sometimes the children cycle up there from the village and have a good laugh looking through the bushes."

What the Horrobridge children are most likely to spy is a white-bearded, apple-cheeked man called Leo Rutherford. He may be naked, but his preference is for a striped cardigan. Mr Rutherford conducts workshops in "the Way of the Shaman" at Grimstone Manor. Describing it as "a journey in symbol, myth and ceremony to the Four Sacred Directions", he uses methods first associated with American Indians. "I suppose shamanism can be called psycho-spiritual healing," he says. "A shaman is the old word for a mystic or medicine man/woman. You are not worshipping a specific deity, but finding your own relationship with the earth."

Mr Rutherford's own relationship with the earth was late in coming. "I was at a public boarding school for ten years, which is enough to make you screwed up for the rest of your life. I was brought up to see the world as something to be conquered."

Formerly the managing director of a manufacturing company in Birkenhead, he learnt about shamanism at the age of 40, when he went to study holistic psychology in San Francisco. He now, at 56, runs the Eagle's Wing Centre for Contemporary Shamanism from his north London home.

His Devon workshops involve a grim-sounding facility called a Sweat Lodge, which resembles a DIY sauna. The idea is to achieve both physical and spiritual cleansing. Led by Mr Rutherford,



Games people play: "interaction" for Celia Wearing at Grimstone

ford, the participants chant and pray in stifling heat and darkness all night, with cooling-off breaks outside. Most of Mr Rutherford's visitors at the start of the new year were old hands at this. Mike Considine, the head of Brainwave publishing, had once done a Sweat Lodge with a bona fide American Indian. "We were all in war paint, led by a Red Indian from Peru, with the headdress and everything on. We even did the rain dance outside and shouted warpath songs before going in. You are just meant to really get into your own mind, with all the drumming and chanting to help. If you like saunas, you're OK."

"It's like a communion with natural forces," says Nigel Jackson, a solicitor from London who has done several of Mr Rutherford's Sweat Lodges. "I don't think of it as a religious substitute, but a way of gaining a greater level of consciousness."

According to Mr Rutherford, 98 per cent of the population are less than fully self-aware. "We are overbooked every year," he says. "We get more women than men. Men are more screwed

up. Women are more ready to work with their inner self. However, we do get lots of male computer programmers."

"It's fairly graphic stuff," Keith Seaman, a computer programmer from Ruislip, Middlesex, says. "Shamanism is like a step beyond psychotherapy. You do ceremonies which go beyond the mind and deal with your unconscious fears."

Clearly, the Indians who devised this were made of sterner stuff than Mr Sea-

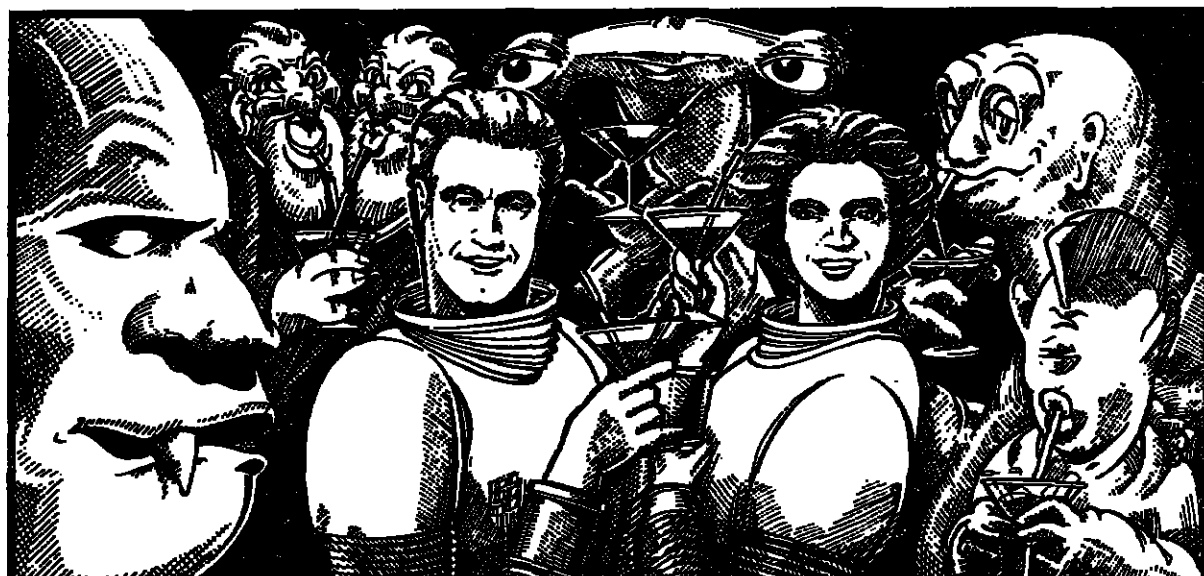
man, not to mention having an advantage in terms of climate. "You are meant to do it naked, but I took a sleeping bag," he says. The trouble was that apart from the cold, there was a huge thunderstorm. I didn't actually last the whole night as the hole began to fill up with water. It was, however, an incredibly educational experience. I have let go of this big burden which was the fear of death, and I can now get on with my life."

Many women on the course feel liberated from the traditional caring roles normally expected of them. Celia Wearing says shamanism has released her into a totally new life. "I am a totally different person. When I was married, I was a moth around my husband's candle. I had no idea that I had needs or that they were important. Now I only do what needs doing."

Grimstone Manor hosts a variety of New Age-type workshops such as "sexual identity" and "spring celebrations", and the programme advertises a course for professionals in the NHS. Back in Horrobridge, the manageress at the Round the Bend Shoppe knows a lot about the goings-on at Grimstone. "You don't always know who they are," she says, "but you suss it straight away when they ask for booze or chocolates — they come and get things they can't get up there. In fact you've just missed two of them, they've cleaned out a whole line of red wine."

Learning how to live shamanistically is not cheap: the Way of the Shaman new year course costs £265 for five days. But Mr Rutherford is convinced it is worth it. "My life is radically different from what it used to be," he says. "American Indian shamanism makes such sense. The world is friendly and beautiful to me now, and I can make what I want of it."

ROSIE MILLARD



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SUN ALLIANCE
LIFE & PENSIONS

On the road to recovery

John O'Leary
examines the
history behind
New Zealand's
school reading
programme

Any doubts there may be about the value of the reading recovery programme favoured by British ministers and the Opposition alike are not shared by the New Zealand government. The scheme's success in its native land since 1984 has made it the sacred cow of an education budget ravaged by cuts.

New Zealand's parlous economic position has put pressure on all public spending at a time when schools are also in the throes of a reorganisation based on British experience. But when the reading recovery scheme suffered unintentionally in the latest round of economies, last July, ministers immediately restored the cuts and offered assurances for the future.

The programme, which helps more than 20 per cent of six-year-olds to improve their reading, enjoys huge support among teachers and parents. Professor Marie Clay, a reading expert who developed the techniques at Auckland University, was made a DBE partly on the strength of its success.

Although a New Zealand government-commissioned report by Professor Ted Glynn, of Otago University, casts doubt on the scheme's long-term effectiveness, the political unanimity on reading recovery is as strong in New Zealand as it now is in Britain. Both New Zealand's main parties supported the introduction of reading recovery at successive elections, and neither shows any sign of wavering.

Teachers are so committed to the early intervention involved that a similar safety net is now in place for mathematics. The development of a "maths recovery" scheme has been underway at Waikato University for several years, although the cost has prevented its introduction nationally.

Labour's dispute with the government over the costs of introducing reading recovery in Britain had its echoes a decade ago in



Read all about it: any children

who have difficulty with their reading are given daily half-hour sessions for up to 20 weeks

New Zealand. The conservative National Party government eventually implemented the programme after three years of argument in opposition about whether it would prove too expensive, diverting resources from children with other needs.

The success rates achieved in six years of trials were irresistible, however. Drawing on research pioneered in Britain, Professor Clay, a developmental psychologist, had begun work on the project in 1965, observing the teaching of 100 five-year-olds. With her own diagnostic tests, she identified the six-year-olds who were not grasping the concepts behind reading as those most likely to have problems in future.

Classroom teachers were closely involved in developing a structured programme for specially trained teachers to remedy each child's weakness through personal tuition. By 1979 trials were already yielding impressive results, which have been repeated throughout New Zealand, as well as in Australia and America.

The poorest readers in a class are given daily half-hour sessions for up to 20 weeks. The next

poorest taking their place when the first group has been brought up to the standard required to become independent readers. A variety of methods is used.

Most New Zealand children now have access to reading recovery. Of the 21 per cent of six-year-olds using the programme in 1988, fewer than 1 per cent needed more help after 20 weeks. Most had caught up with their peers after three months.

While Dame Marie, who is to supervise training for the programme at the London Institute of Education, has been anxious to tone down expectations in Britain, she has expressed satisfaction with the scale of success in New Zealand. In *The Early Detection of Reading Difficulties*, published last year, she suggested that reading recovery could eliminate all reading difficulties except those caused by physical handicap. Even dyslexics could benefit.

Although New Zealand did not have a severe literacy problem before the scheme was introduced, with other initiatives also in place

on reading the country's literacy level is now high by world standards. The costs have been high, both because of the extra staffing and because each tutor requires a year's training.

Dr Lockwood Smith, the education minister, has been prepared to pay to fulfil a commitment to raise basic educational standards. Roy Griffiths, the senior policy analyst at the education ministry, says: "There has been a definite improvement, even though there are some kids with greater problems needing long-term assistance."

The first wave of pupils to go through the programme reached high school in 1991, and many principals have noticed fewer reading problems.

Ros Noonan, the secretary of the primary teachers' union, sees the programme as a vital part of a wider reading effort, rather than a panacea. "We have a comprehensive, in-depth approach to language learning, covering writing, reading and oral expression. That is one of my fears on reading of the sudden British enthusiasm for it. It has been an effective tool as part of a wider programme here."

Teachers and administrators who have seen reading recovery in operation in Surrey have no doubt that the scheme can raise national literacy standards. The doubts mainly concern the costs associated with a method that is by no means the only one to claim success in raising standards.

Volunteer Reading Helpers, for example, a British charity which will receive £50,000 from the government this year, uses quite different techniques for similar periods of extra tuition. With a shorter period of training and 800 volunteer tutors, the organisation estimates that its method costs less than £75 per child, compared to at least £600 for reading recovery.

Both Labour and the government say that they have examined the alternatives and found that their chosen scheme is the best. Surrey and at least eight London boroughs have reached the same conclusion. The question now is whether it will become nationally available. The government will commit itself only to £3 million for a pilot scheme which would cost £400,000 for Surrey alone, while Labour has not put a firm price tag on its promise.

Students help on Chernobyl

FOLLOWING the success of English pupils in undertaking the first survey of the amount of radon in drinking water, school children in the Ukraine will use the same technique to investigate plutonium levels near the Chernobyl power station. Fifty Kiev schools will embark on the project next term, under the direction of Denis Henshaw, a Bristol University physicist. Dr Henshaw has developed a plastic strip to record the movement of radioactive particles. Just as the English pupils used the plastic to test for radon gas, the Ukrainian children will use it to monitor plutonium at several locations just outside the Chernobyl exclusion zone. Each school will bury a piece of the strip in the ground for a week, then retrieve it. Back in the classroom, the pupils will count the number of marks made on the plastic by the plutonium. The results will be forwarded to Bristol for Dr Henshaw to calculate average readings for the whole Chernobyl area.

The pupils of Portway Secondary School, Bristol, who helped collate the radon survey results, will assist Dr Henshaw.

Russian swap

IN another example of East-West co-operation, Russian managers are to be trained by the business school at Wolverhampton Polytechnic on how to cope with a free market economy. Managers from a Russian agency will attend training courses through 1992. The business school hopes to set up a joint course with the Moscow International Business School next September.

Home help

A HOMEWORK hotline has been introduced at a school in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, to enable parents to check on the amount of work their children have been set. The hotline, thought to be the first in Britain, will open this term at the 480-pupil Royston Com-

Parent plea

PARENTS have formed an action group to save a Surrey infant school threatened with closure in 1993. The parents claim that children at the 18-year-old St Francis Roman Catholic first school in Woking will suffer because the proposed alternatives are inadequate and will reduce the quality of education rather than improve it.

Surrey county council proposes to transfer the five to seven year-olds to St Dunstan's middle school to form an amalgamated primary school. Antony Dunlop, the chairman of the parents' group, says: "St Francis is a purpose-built first school, specifically designed for the education of smaller children. The proposals make no provision for providing equivalent facilities at St Dunstan's, which needs refurbishing of the building to accommodate the same facilities. There is already a backlog of dilapidations at St Dunstan's."

PROFESSOR Juliet Butler is in the politics department of Hull University, not the European studies department, as reported in Education Times on December 9.

Book now

SCHOOLS and colleges will be able to apply for a share of £6 million provided by the employment department to enhance careers libraries. The funding coincides with the release of government careers-information guidelines. Careers education has been criticised by several ministers.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, says the new money will enable schools and colleges to update careers libraries to include technology-based sources of information.

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Applicants should send a full cv. in confidence to the Principal, Trevelyan College, Elvet Hill Road, Durham DH1 3LN. Closing date 31st January 1992; interviews to be held in Durham 2nd-3rd March.



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Further particulars can be obtained only by writing to The Master's Secretary, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge CB2 1TA. To whom completed applications should be sent by 10 February 1992.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

CORPUS CHRISTI PROFESSORSHIP OF LATIN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

The electors intend to proceed to an election to the Corpus Christi Professorship of Latin Language and Literature, with effect from 1 October 1992 or such later date as may be arranged. The stipend of the professorship is at present £33,078 per annum.

A non-stipendiary professional fellowship at Corpus Christi College is attached to the professorship.

Applications (eight copies, or one from overseas candidates), naming three referees, should be received not later than 2 March 1992 by The Registrar, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

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A little wiser and more mature but poorer, too

A few years ago I made a mental note not to forget that at some point I wanted to be a textile designer and to speak fluent French. I reluctantly acknowledged that this would mean a return to education.

So, at the age of 23, I reintroduced myself gently by completing a year of evening classes in textile design at Chelsea School of Art in London. That did it, and soon I found myself winning a full-time place at the Polytechnic of East London to study a combined BA honours degree in textile design and French. I was terrified.

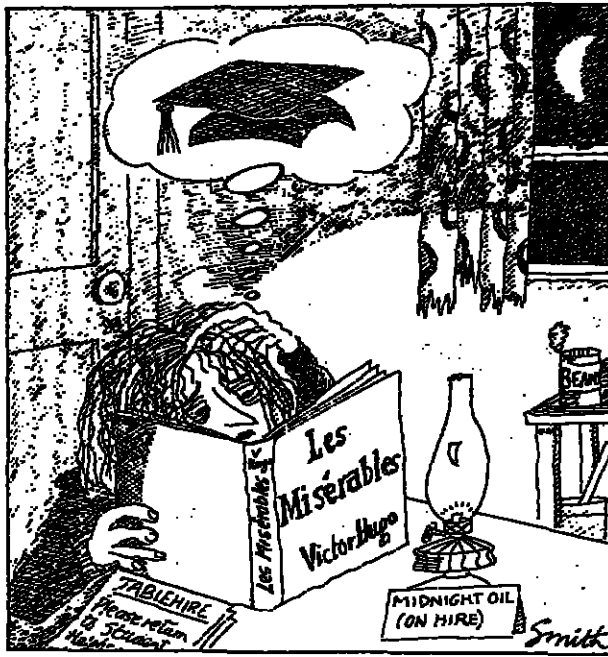
Accepting the place meant giving up all notions of comfort, security and income. The secretarial job that I had held for more than four years had to go. Travel and shopping at Harvey Nichols had to cease and cheaper, rented accommodation had to be found.

The course became a kind of investment, and expectations were high. Two months into the course, the promised grant cheque from Lewisham Education Authority still had not arrived. The polytechnic was unprepared to do anything to help, and I wanted to leave.

The polytechnic deliberately refrains from pressuring students in the first term to avoid adding to difficulties that younger students, having just left the comforts of home, may be experiencing. This is very understanding, but it tends to encourage laziness in many students, including myself, which can create problems later.

Attendance was required on only two days a week and hardly any work was set. Having spent the past four years in a fairly hectic job, I was nonplussed by the vast amount of spare time I had on my hands and depressed at having no income. If the manager at Lloyds bank had not agreed to pay my rent for the first term, I would have had no option but to drop out. One of the advantages of being a mature student is that banks tend to be more tolerant and are prepared to help

What happens when a woman aged 23 gives up a full-time job to attempt an honours degree?



If they are told when money is due and are kept regularly informed of personal financial situations. They are generally prepared to increase an overdraft. Credit card companies, however, are less understanding and regularly threaten to sue. The grant cheque finally arrived during the last week of the first term. The council said the money might have reached me sooner if most of its education staff had not been transferred to the poll tax department.

At the poly, there was the danger of falling between two camps: on the one side, young students straight from their foundation year; on the other, mature students often with children and divorces behind them.

I had failed to realise beforehand that education is anything but a passive activity. Students are not taught as much as they have to learn.

Lecturers seem to spend more time completing vast administrative tasks or appealing for better facilities and money than they do in the classroom. Classes are sometimes cancelled at short notice and internal communications do not always work well. The culture shock led to a little confusion.

On my course, new ideas and information were constantly being introduced but little guidance was given on how to proceed.

Motivation and self-discipline are without a doubt the most important attitudes if a journey through higher education is to be successful, and the latter has never come easily to me. It was a case of making lists and rotas, which never lasted more than a fortnight, although a routine did fall into place with work required for the next day being done at three in the morning.

Writing essays again was initially a challenge, despite my having studied A-level English and sociology. There is an art to essay-writing, which comes only with regular practice, but after a year, it seems to be a skill that returns.

I went to college with preconceptions about my fellow students and the student union: those studying art would be bold and outspoken while those taking language courses would be more reserved and serious.

The reverse was true. The language students turned out to be lively, participating in events in which everybody is keen to speak and make mistakes. The whole language faculty was well-organised with an excellent library that stocked cassettes and videotapes, and we were encouraged to use the language laboratories in our spare time.

I thought the student union would be highly active, but I would not be surprised if it were still campaigning for the release of Nelson Mandela.

The course did increase its pace, and when finally the textile group was let loose on a practical project - to design and print lengths of fabric - it was enjoyable and satisfying. Although the event clashed with the third-year degree work, resulting in some confusion, it was successful.

Returning to education has shaken me. I have been excited to rediscover how to learn, and having done so, my appetite for it is enormous. I now have to stop myself from signing up for hang-gliding or Italian.

I have learnt not to want new clothes and holidays, but books, tubes of paint and the odd meal.

Now, almost half-way through the second year and with financial hardship increasing, attendance sometimes has to be sacrificed for paid employment.

Still slightly dazed from the experience of the first year, I am taking control again.

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Charity that could lead to elitism

Continued on Page 2

Triumph of respectability

Peter Riddell identifies a political breed that has carried all before it

Politicians have always been classified into groups — court or country, left or right — but events and people change so quickly that the labels can soon lose their meaning. "Wet" and "dry" were accurate indicators of the views of Tory MPs for a couple of years at most in the early 1980s. Over Christmas, however, I came across a vividly suggestive new label, the Respectable Tendency, that is widely applicable in the history of the Conservative party. What better description, for instance, could you want for John Major, Douglas Hurd and the present cabinet?

The term appears in Andrew Roberts's engrossing biography of Lord Halifax, *The Holy Fox* (published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson). He uses it to describe those, including Halifax and Baldwin, who dominated British politics from October 1922, when they ended the Lloyd George coalition at the famous Carlton Club meeting, until May 1940 and the Norway debate that brought Churchill to power. The Carlton Club revolt of Tory MPs represented the rejection of the giants of British politics, Churchill, Birken-

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

"bookies and the gangsters" ruled the Tory party from then until 1963. Macmillan liked to appear a bookie, even if he had a strong streak of the bishop in his personality. His determination to stop Butler succeeding him originated in their differences over appeasement in the 1930s. Though Macmillan's preferred candidates, Lord Hailsham and Lord Home, had publicly supported appeasement like Butler, they had successfully shed its association.

The old dividing lines took on new forms with the election to the leadership of Edward Heath, the epitome of the bishop in politics. The revolt against Mr Heath in February 1975, the peasants' revolt as it has been called, was, like May 1940, at heart a rejection of the Respectable Tendency after too many failures. Margaret Thatcher and her allies were initially regarded by many of the existing leadership with almost as much hostility as Churchill was in head.

'Whoever wins the next election, the Respectable Tendency will be in power'

Lloyd George, Balfour and Austen Chamberlain, by the heart of the party. Baldwin attacked Lloyd George as "a dynamic force", which is "a very terrible thing".

The vote was, as Mr Roberts argues, "seen as the triumph of Respectability over waywardness and piracy: the victory of the bishops over the bookies". The distinction has little to do with social origins or standing. It essentially reflects an attitude to politics, a desire for consensus and continuity over confrontation and change. The "bishops" governed Britain for almost the whole of the following 18 years, viewing Churchill and Lloyd George with almost equal suspicion. But Halifax recognised that — in this century — Respectable methods would not win wars. So he did not press his claims to become prime minister in 1940, though he was favoured by a wide spectrum from the King to many Labour leaders. It is hard now to recapture the widespread hostility then to the arrival of Churchill. Tory MPs gave him a cool reception in shock at the departure of Neville Chamberlain. A friend of Baldwin noted, "the crooks are on top, as they were in the last war — we must keep our powder dry". Contemplating the new influence of Beaverbrook and Bracken, Halifax complained, "the gangsters will shortly be in complete control". Lord Hankey saw the only hope "in the solid core of Churchill, Chamberlain and Halifax, but whether the wise old elephants will ever be able to hold the Rogue Elephant I doubt". Within six months, Chamberlain was dead and soon afterwards Halifax was exiled to Washington.

Just as the Respectable Tendency dominated British politics in the 1920s and 1930s, the

industry bosses equally. These distinctions should not be applied too rigidly since Sir Geoffrey Howe personifies the Respectable Tendency if anyone does. Appropriately, it was the final snapping of his long-suffering patience with Mrs Thatcher that precipitated her downfall. The direct challenge to her on the first ballot came, of course, from someone distrusted by the Respectable, Michael Heseltine, a piratical adventurer who counts Lloyd George among his heroes. But the beneficiary was John Major, the voice of Respectability and consensus. The buccaneers of the Thatcherite heyday have all gone. Lord Halifax would have felt comfortable with the Major administration and with the long-suffering good sense of Mr Hurd.

Not only on the Tory benches is the Respectable Tendency in the ascendant. Labour also presents a face of Respectability, as it has for most of its history. There have been exceptions — Lansbury, Bevan, Crossman, Tom Benn — but the real power has been held by the Respectable. When Neil Kinnock refused to back Mr Benn in the Labour deputy leadership contest of 1981 he joined the ranks of the Respectable and himself became a leadership contender. Whoever wins the next election, the Respectable Tendency will be in power.



...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Returning from Spain to Britain last week, I found myself at Barcelona airport checking in for a flight to Birmingham, laden with gifts. Heavy gifts: so heavy that my baggage exceeded the 20 kilo limit.

"You're overweight," said the lady.

I blustered: "I could carry some clothes over my arm..." "Just fill a plastic bag and take that as hand luggage." So I did. No sweat. Except that behind me in the queue was a woman who must have weighed 17 stone if she weighed an ounce. And I, weighing 9 stone, was "overweight"! She waddled, panting, to the desk and thumped her suitcase — stuffed, no doubt, with boxes of chocolates and tasty delicacies — on to the scales.

Why wasn't she ordered to climb on too? Without fat people we could get to Birmingham with less fuel, more passengers, cheaper tickets, or extra baggage.

"Smoking or non-smoking, madam?" Her decision would condemn to misery the passenger whose adjacent seat parts of her would overhang. Not content with driving up thin people's fares, she would jog our elbows and knock our shoulders, too, as she passed down the gangway.

This was monstrous. If I send books to Birmingham I pay by weight. If I send myself to Birmingham — well, a person's a person, never mind the size. But imagine saying the post-

master "a parcel's a parcel, never mind the size". Here I stood beside this lady, a slim aerogramme of a man beside a knee-cracking consignment of human lard, and I must subsidise her ticket!

And her health care, too. Fat people generate higher medical costs but (unlike the smoker) pay no extra taxes to help the NHS cope. The fatty's extra food, meanwhile, is subsidised. Every spoon of sugar, pat of butter and slice of bread is paid for only partly by the diner. The VAT-funded common agricultural policy pays the rest. There is no VAT on food, so the more a fatty eats the more we skinnies subsidise him.

He will tell you, no doubt, that he "can't help it," has "an appetite like a bird". All my fat friends say that. "Lucky you, you're so thin, all I have to do is look at food..." They have just eaten three breakfasts but it slips their memory.

A mammal's weight is reduced by eating less or exercising more. There is no evading this, though people try. Around every sin camps an army of quacks making a living from telling the sinner it isn't his fault, is an "illness", etc. Humbug. Fatness is voluntary, like smoking.

And we persecute smokers. If at a dinner party Jamie were to say "God, Alicia, I wish you'd give up those appalling cigarettes" people would think "right on, Jamie, you tell her!" But imagine the outrage if Jamie were to say "Alicia, why

not take a rain check on the soup course? Your fatness disgusts me". In America "weight discrimination" is virtually a crime while smoker discrimination is compulsory. Could one enter a restaurant and ask to be seated in an obesity-free area?

Smokers pay, and it is time fannies did. Society has finished discussing the poll tax so I have an exotic replacement to propose. A fat tax. Not, let me assure you, a punishment, or intended to disparage: just a way for those who are taking a little extra out of this planet to put a little extra back. Responsible fatties will welcome it.

The fat tax (government will call it "corpulence charge") is simple. For every height a maximum approved weight will be stipulated. Town halls will be issued with scales and every citizen will carry a licence certifying his weight. At or below the approved figure there will be no charge, but for excess pounds a sliding tariff will apply. Roadside weighing centres will be set up and women police constables, with whistles, will be empowered to direct citizens in for spot checks...

"Are you the owner of those braces, sir? A bit on the tight side, ha, ha. Can you produce your documents to your local police station within seven days, please?" Or "Had a nice Christmas and new year, have madam? Extra helpings of pud, ho, ho? Can I ask you to slip off your shoes for a moment and step this way?"

Nigel Hawkes on the dilemma genetic scientists pose for the insurance industry

Expensive genes

Some time soon, Britain will have to come to grips with a dilemma created by the success of science. The more we learn about the genetic basis of disease, the harder it is going to be to sustain a free market in insurance.

Last year, the state legislature of California pointed the way by passing a bill to ban the use of genetic information to discriminate between people buying health insurance. This bill defined a class of information which the individual may legitimately conceal from an insurance company.

The bill reflected a mounting panic in America about the implications of the human genome project. As genetic knowledge advances, researchers are uncovering the bases of a growing number of diseases. So far, only sufferers from relatively rare genetic conditions, such as Huntington's Chorea, can be told their fate before the symptoms begin to appear, but soon others may discover that their genes predispose them to die from heart disease or cancer.

Insurance thrives on uncertainty. Given a sufficiently large population, actuaries can predict how

many will die young and how many will live to draw their pensions, but it has never been possible to pinpoint individuals. The premiums of Methuselahs subsidise the dependants of those who die before their biblical three score years and ten.

The human genome project threatens, some fear, to undermine the whole system. The difficulty is particularly acute in the US, where health insurance is essential if people are to survive serious illness with some capital intact. The National Health Service reduces the pressures in Britain, but the life assurance and annuity markets seem certain to be affected by the new knowledge. Within the not too distant future, the Association of British Insurers expects that there will be genetic tests available, costing less than £5 a time, that may pinpoint the risk for individuals of dying from common conditions.

The California bill placed an

eight-year ban on the use of such information by insurance companies, effectively allowing people to take the tests and then keep the results to themselves. Similar arguments are being heard in Britain. Professor Bob Williamson, a geneticist from St Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, draws a distinction between information over which people have no control — their genes — and factors such as smoking or taking part in dangerous sports, which are matters of choice. He has called for legislation to guarantee that the former "is not used to discriminate between individuals".

The insurance companies view matters differently. They foresee those who know they are likely to die young taking out huge life insurance policies, and those who are told they will live to 95 getting a particularly good deal on the annuity market. In either case, the Association of British Insurers says, people will be cheating the

insurance companies if they are allowed to keep the results of their tests secret.

The experience of insuring carriers of HIV provides a parallel. In America, many states have legislation preventing insurance companies from discriminating against HIV carriers. As a result, some insurance companies have left the market altogether, and others have increased premiums to all so that the majority subsidises the minority.

Lady Warnock, the mistress of Girton College, Cambridge, says that it is difficult to see how insurance could continue as an institution if the convention of maximum honesty were abandoned. She expects insurance companies to demand a genetic print-out, just as they demand a medical examination today. The result will be, she says, that people and their families may be compelled to discover things they would have preferred not to know.

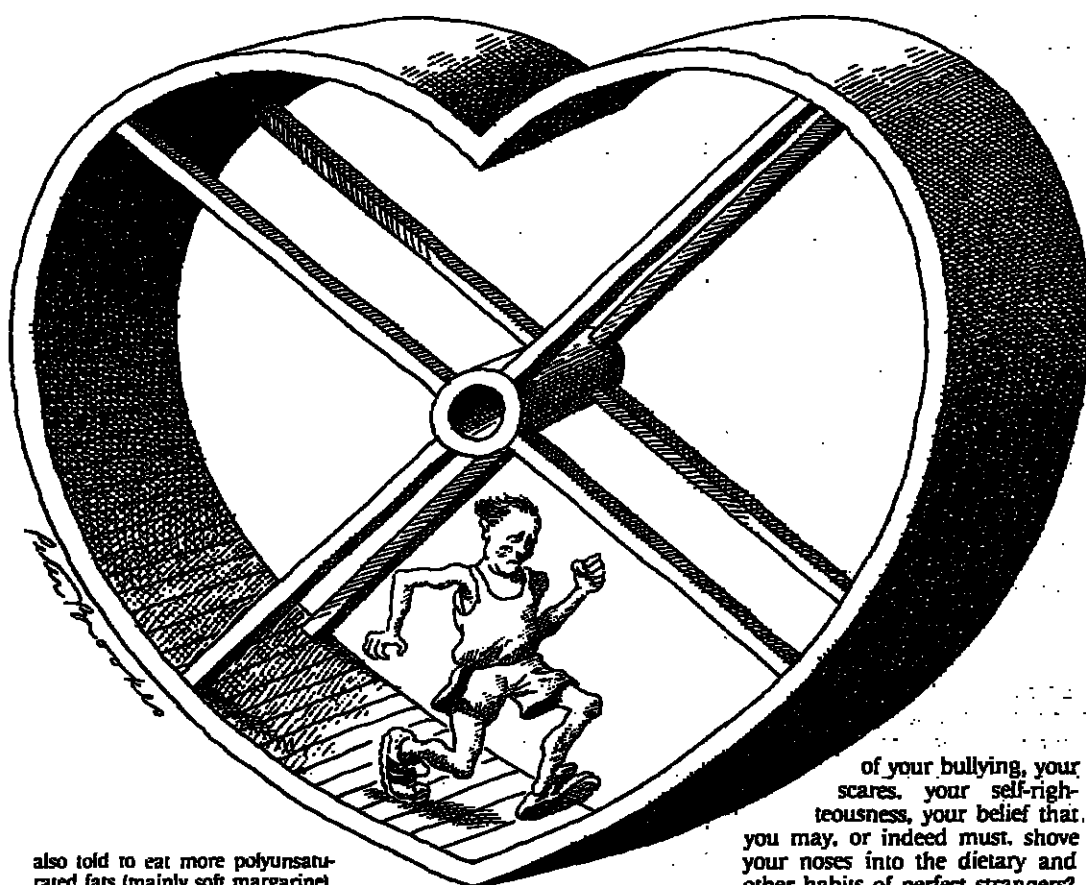
In reality, the genes predisposing to common diseases may be so many, and may interact with one another and with the environment in such a complex way, that it will never be possible to draw any very clear conclusions from them. In that case, the dilemma will not arise in an acute form.

To depend on that, however, would be foolish. In America there have already been instances in which people have declined genetic tests that might have helped them or their children, because of the fear that the results would make them uninsurable. By making genetic information uniquely privileged, the California legislation has sought to dispel the fear and ensure that the benefits of the genome project in improved diagnosis and cure of genetic conditions can be realised.

Some similar legislation may be necessary in Britain. Squaring the individual's rights to privacy with the long-established principle of free disclosure appears at first sight an impossible task, but if a compromise has to be struck there is no doubt where the balance should lie: in favour of the individual.

The heart has its reasons

Bernard Levin celebrates the collapse of a medical myth



as hateful can be doing the experience any good.

Of course the "reformed" Helsinki subjects died sooner than did the slobs. But that had nothing to do with the diet and the rest of the measures that were supposed to make the poor devils live for ever: the catching clue was the apparently inexplicable finding that in the ranks of the born-again fitness-freaks there was a tendency for them to go off their heads and end their lives in violence. The pattern of their lives had been disturbed, whence these significant blips on the actuaries' charts.

Habit is one of the most powerful forces in mankind, and there is no culture that dispenses with it, or tries to, without experiencing seriously negative consequences. I come back to my discovery, some years ago, about jogging: I was in Los Angeles where the joggers are numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore. As each one went by, I could see — I was on the edge of the jogging-path, not more than a foot or two away from them — that every one of them had a face contorted in anger and disgust. No, it was not the grimace that accompanies great effort; it was self-hatred. Believe me, when I realised the meaning of those faces, I should also have realised that I could have saved a lot of Finnish doctors 15 years of senseless labour, merely by gathering them round me, standing them doubles of whatever sensible people like to drink in Finland, and explaining.

Leave well alone. The food-worshippers will tell you that a bad diet is bad for you, and so it is. But they define bad as disregarding the rules they have themselves drawn up. The real bad diet is one which makes the eater of it first wisquipped, then unhappy, then angry. You do not have to be a doctor to know that disquiet, unhappiness and anger are not good for the heart. Measure those indicators, gentlemen, not the intake of cholesterol and polyunsaturated fat, and base your conclusions on what they tell you. Meanwhile, if you seek a place where they now know that a little of what you fancy does you good, try Helsinki.

of your bullying, your scares, your self-righteousness, your belief that you may, or indeed must, shove your noses into the dietary and other habits of perfect strangers? Has not a single one of you ever heard of Marie Lloyd? When the man who invented jogging dropped dead while doing it, was there nothing in your minds other than sympathy for his family?

Your silence is eloquent; were you compelled to answer all those questions you would say "No" to every one. Very well; I must teach my grandmother to suck eggs. In matters of health (body or mind), in matters of comfort, of familiarity, of habit, of companionship (even if the companion is a cat), of regularity, of satisfaction, of surroundings, of everything and anything which goes on indefinitely in its usual way if left alone, while we are quite contented that it should go on indefinitely in its usual way if left alone — of all these things and all things like them, we hold these truths to be self-evident, that nothing that is experienced

also told to eat more polyunsaturated fats (mainly soft margarine), fish, chicken, veal and vegetables, and to cut down on smoking and exercise more.

After 15 years, the "healthier" low-cholesterol sample continued to die more rapidly. 67 deaths in all, 34 of them due to heart disease. The control group, whose risk of heart attack was theoretically higher, had only 14 cardiac deaths and 32 deaths from other causes.

None of this surprises me in the least. For as long as I can remember, I have started my breakfast with a steaming jug of cholesterol: my lunch consists of three or four saturated-fat sandwiches, and my usual dinner is a substantial plate of calories (with melted butter). As for drink (this bit's true) it is a poor day — a wretched one, even — when no champagne, pleasantly cool, slides over my tonsils. Of course, I am not such a fool as to take exercise, and my only worry in these

matters is that I don't smoke — not because I think it unhealthy, but because I dislike the taste. (I propose, instead, a course of nicotine injections.)

Yes, yes, Levin must have his fun. But he must also have his seriousness, and this is it, coming up. There is a hint, and a truly terrible one, buried in the summary of the data accompanying the news of cholesterol's beneficial properties. I quote again:

Several big trials of cholesterol-lowering treatments have failed to bring a reduction in deaths, with some showing a peculiar increase in numbers dying from non-cardiac causes such as suicide, accidents and violence; such increases were also reported in the Helsinki trial.

My italics; and well they might be. Do you not see the point even now, you pests? Do you not understand the cumulative effect

Laugh? They nearly died

THE SCENES of panic were not quite on a level with those set off by Orson Welles's radio broadcast of *The War of the Worlds*. But television in Armenia may never be taken seriously again.

Viewers of the newly established television station in the capital Yerevan were horrified when a newflash announced that their president was unable to carry out his official duties because of ill health. His deputy, stated a grave presenter, was heading an emergency committee including several senior members of Armenia's old guard. From this moment on, continued the announcement, the following publications would be banned...

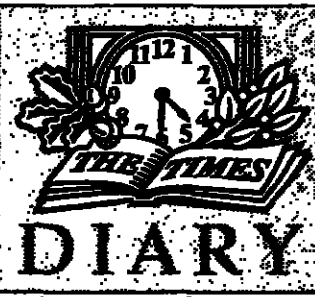
The broadcast was apparently intended to be a jolly parody of the August coup when Mikhail Gorbachev was held hostage in his Crimean holiday retreat. Armenians, unsurprisingly, believed it. People rushed into the street and the switchboards at the television station and the president's office were jammed with callers.

When the station realised the consequences of its prank — assuming it was a joke and not a cunning attempt at destabilisation — denials were broadcast through the night. But they took a long time to restore the capital to its customary equilibrium.

Black gold

THE proposed marriage between the National Union of Mineworkers and the Transport and General Workers' Union may remove Arthur Scargill from the limelight. But it will not leave him out of pocket.

King Arthur, as he is affectionately known within the in-



As supermarket shelves in the former Soviet Union continue to empty, the humble rabbit has become a delicacy. The creatures have a street value of 100 roubles — nearly a quarter of the average monthly salary. So highly are they prized, it seems, that zoos throughout the republics are keeping a careful eye on their hutches after the theft of eight bunnies, destined for the black market, from Karkov in Ukraine.

Bombing out

SCIENTISTS in unified Germany have shunned an award in memory of Klaus Fuchs, who deeply compromised the British government by giving atomic secrets to the Russians.

Fuchs, who died in 1988, was a committed communist before fleeing Nazi Germany in 1933, but rose through the ranks to become deputy scientific director at Harwell atomic research centre.

After his death his widow set up the Klaus Fuchs Physics Prize at



the Academie der DDR. But since unification it has become the Deutsche Akademie, and the governing body has refused to have anything to do with a prize

named after Fuchs, who received East German's highest civilian honour, the Order of Karl Marx.

His widow, Greta, is determined that the award will be made this year. "I am refusing to withdraw it. My husband was a patriot and a man of peace. I am not happy at the way his memory has been dishonoured. This award will ensure his memory is perpetuated in the proper way."

The author Norman Moss, who wrote *Klaus Fuchs: The Man who Stole the Atom Bomb*, did not think the prize should be dropped. "Fuchs did a dishonourable thing for an honourable motive."

As recently as 1981 echoes of the Fuchs affair could be heard. Three Foreign Office files on the case were due to be released by the Public Records Office under the 30-year rule. But the FO blocked them on the grounds that matters were still too sensitive for public scrutiny.

Pas de deux

THE quality of the Royal Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* is not the only talking point in the interval at Covent Garden. Tucked away in the small print of the glossy programme is the name of the main sponsors of the production, first put on in 1984: Gerald Ronson and Robert Maxwell.

In those days Covent Garden was delighted to be associated with Ronson, boss of the Heron Group, and Maxwell, head of the British Printing and Communications Corporation.

That was before the men were discovered to be less than paragons in their business practices. The tycoons were regular on the corporate opera and ballet circuit. Many ballet lovers are wondering whether it might be time for the pair to make an exit from the programme — stage left.



WEST MEETS EAST

President Bush arrives in Japan tomorrow for what is expected to be the most difficult leg of an Asian tour that is already proving embarrassingly controversial. His reception in Tokyo will certainly be politer than it was in Australia, as courtesy is a hallmark of his hosts. But the trouble will be deeper, the underlying issues more intractable and the potential for misunderstanding far greater. Far from resolving the growing tensions, the visit may contribute to them.

The basis for Mr Bush's tour is misconceived. With his popularity plummeting at home and a public perception that he was spending too much time on foreign policy at the expense of domestic ills, he abruptly cancelled his long planned tour and then rescheduled it with a different agenda. Instead of focusing on the changing needs for Pacific security, world trade and the collapse of the Soviet Union, he gathered around him his most hawkish trade officials, invited along prominent American businessmen and set off for a vote-catching display of temper over America's growing deficit with its Pacific trade partners.

The Japanese are agitated at being treated so cavalierly. The new prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, looking for the traditional endorsement by Washington on assuming office, was embarrassed. The snarls from the White House have done little to create a cordial atmosphere in advance.

Mr Bush's main concern is that America's perennial trade deficit with Japan, estimated in 1991 to be running at \$41 billion, is again rising. Cars account for some 75 per cent of this deficit, and Detroit, already reeling from the recession, is looking to the White House for a quick fix. The Americans are pressing Japan to import not only more cars but more car parts. It is a fairly futile campaign. The main reason why Americans prefer Japanese cars is because they are better — the same reason why Japanese buy Japanese. Trade barriers hardly feature any more. Mr Bush and Mr Miyazawa, the commerce secretary, have also made it a point of principle that Japan open its rice market.

The principle is politically important in the current tense GATT trade talks, but likely to

yield a lesser victory than many American farmers may be expecting. The main beneficiaries of any market opening, now reluctantly conceded by Mr Miyazawa, are likely to be Japan's Asian neighbours.

Haggling about trade may do Mr Bush some good in the polls, but such a public squabble with an ally is likely to be counterproductive on other fronts. The Americans want Tokyo to play a wider role on the world stage. So far, the Japanese response has appeared to the world giggling and grudging. Japan's foreign ministry knows the need for the country to demonstrate political responsibility commensurate with economic might; the public and the political establishment see no such obligation. As long as the public mood is essentially isolationist, there is little the world can do.

Nevertheless the Japanese are still easily bruised by tough words from the Americans. Ever since the second world war Japanese policy has been fixated on the United States. Politicians have always looked to Washington for approval, Japan has relied on America to protect it against a hostile Soviet Union. Japanese society is still disproportionately influenced by American society and way of life. Now that the Soviet Union has collapsed and with it any serious military threat, it would be healthy if Japan began to pay more attention to the views of others, especially its Asian neighbours and European trading partners.

The narrowness of the political establishment's focus is unhealthy for both Japan and America. It allows Japan to take American political support for granted, perpetuating an almost pro-consular insensitivity in Washington. It also builds resentment in Japan, at not having its special relationship reciprocated.

Both sides now need a fundamental reassessment of their mutual relations, which must go far beyond bilateral trade arrangements. Mr Bush well understands this need. It is a pity that he has allowed election jitters to change what should have been broad-ranging and thoughtful talks into a public spat that may only make that reassessment more difficult.

BACK TO THE BLACKBOARD

An ideology is on the march in education. A politically-minded minority is determined imposing its dogmas about teaching method and classroom organisation, irrespective of the true views of parents, pupils and teachers. But, *pace* Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, that minority is not the liberal intelligentsia of the education establishment, whom he is trying so hard to challenge. He and his phalanx of unofficial advisers are the dogmatists, and they threaten to undo the many necessary changes which are underway in education.

When Mrs Thatcher began her crusade against trendy education in the early 1980s, she was tackling real problems. Standards were being neglected. Informal learning techniques had got out of control. Parents' views were given too little weight; the interests of professional teachers too much. Excessive emphasis was being put on the peripherals of education, for example anti-racism, and its central purpose was sometimes neglected. All this is now conceded not least by the Labour party, which has embraced standards and parent power with the zeal of the convert.

Yet Mr Clarke continues to tilt at windmills. His speech to the Northern Education Conference over the weekend is spattered with references designed to ingratiate himself with teachers, whose dedication he praises. But he somehow manages to imply that these same teachers are being manipulated by enemy forces. The enemies, this time, are not the local education authorities, but the teacher training colleges and universities. To liberate the profession from their grip, he proposes increasing the amount of training time which teachers spend in the classroom to 80 per cent of the total.

The suggestion is not new. Politically neutral educationists, led by Baroness

Warnock, have long advocated teaching schools, based on an analogy with medical schools. Mr Clarke's own inspectors favour an extension of school-based teacher training.

Sounds reasonable, but Mr Clarke does not begin to get to grips with the practicalities. He fails properly to weigh the inspectors' caveat: "simply providing more time in school is not enough." He advocates a "more equal partnership" between school teachers and tutors in institutions, but he does not explain how teachers are properly to be prepared for their new duties, nor how he intends to explain to parents that the best teachers are to be diverted from their essential task of teaching children. The new money to be made available to launch the scheme, £3 million, is exiguous.

His proposals have also to be set in context. Last week, he decided to ignore teacher protest at his decision to reduce the coursework content of exams. He increasingly anathematises project-based education, which is the source of much that is best in schools. He has failed adequately to simplify seven-year-old tests.

Mr Clarke presents himself as a traditionalist, bringing old-fashioned common sense to education. But there is a quite separate, though equally Tory, tradition in these matters: Questioning the wisdom of Whitehall, it is suspicious of national blueprints. It would rather have and win an argument than impose a solution. It appreciates the need for diversity, so that different approaches can be tried and evaluated. It gives great weight to local education authorities, as the providers of education in their areas. Change, when brought about in this way, may be less rapid. But it lasts longer, and it is reform that sticks, rather than reform tossed hither and thither on the political breeze, that education most needs.

UNBENDING BISHOPS

Second to Shakespeare as the English writer most cited in the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations is Thomas Cranmer, author of the bulk of the Book of Common Prayer. The 1662 prayer book courses through the veins of English culture, and its replacement in many churches with the Alternative Service Book has caused anguish, most publicly amongst royalty. The Bishop of Bristol, the Rt Rev Barry Rogerson, is the latest to criticise the "liturgical anarchy" in the Church of England, which, he claims, puts the cohesion of the Church at risk.

Should the Church of England be worried about the fragmentation of its liturgy? A characteristic of the established church is that it is hard to define, for it embraces so many different traditions. When the 1662 prayer book was used in all services, unity could be expressed by common worship, whatever the high or low-church inclinations of different congregations. But in the 20th century, many in the Church have fretted that the archaic language of the 1662 book excluded Christians from church attendance. In 1928, Parliament blocked the introduction of a new prayer book, and it was not until 1980 that an Alternative Service Book was authorised.

As soon as the spell of uniformity was broken, forms of worship started to fragment. There is now such a proliferation that Anglicanism cannot really be said to have a common worship. In one church, traditional language is joined by the solemn music of Palestrina. In another, colloquialisms rule,

and gospel songs are accompanied by guitars, tambourines and handclapping.

But does this matter? The Church of England is still one church in its diocesan structure and institutions. The same system of law applies throughout and members are represented at the General Synod. Senior churchmen may write their hands at the diversity of forms of worship in individual churches. But most important is to ask whether or not life in the parishes is healthy. Individual churchgoers are, in the main, not exercised by the variation in liturgy. Quite the contrary. In towns and cities at least, such diversity gives them more choice. Increasingly, urban churches are tending to serve not just their own parishioners, but everyone in the area who likes their type of worship. So evangelical Christians, for instance, can now drive across town to attend the service that appeals to them.

This liturgical "anarchy", then, may be the best way of maintaining levels of church attendance. As in many other forms of life, the English have become more discriminating. Bishops should welcome the growing self-assertion of their parishioners, not try to stamp a Stalinist uniformity on them. As ever, there is an appositive quotation from the 1662 prayer book: "It hath been the wisdom of the Church of England, ever since the first compiling of her Publick Liturgy, to keep the mean between the two extremes, of too much stiffness in refusing, and of too much easiness in admitting any variation from it." Bishops, beware stiffness.

Belgrano sinking and the fog of war

From Mr Tam Dalyell, MP for Linlithgow (Labour)

Sir, In his interesting article, "The war that almost wasn't fought" (January 1), William Greaves quotes the captain of the Belgrano as saying: "War is war. You expect to be attacked. What did surprise us was that the British did nothing when we were a threat, but attacked when we had been heading away from the task force for several hours."

Precisely. War is war. And had the Belgrano been sunk while she was a threat, there would have been no complaint or questions from me. Questions began to arise when the commander of HMS Conqueror made statements on his return which support what Captain Bonzo now says, and at significant variance with what the House of Commons was told at the time.

For example, specifically, in *Our Falklands War*, where the men of the task force tell their own story, edited by Geoffrey Underwood and introduced by Major-General Sir Jeremy Moore, the then Commander Christopher Wreford-Brown stated: "We were tasked to look for and find the General Belgrano group. It was reported to consist of the cruiser and escorts. We located her on our passive sonar and sighted her visually early on the afternoon of May 1. We took up a position astern and followed the General Belgrano for over 30 hours. We reported that we were in contact with her."

The House of Commons was told by Sir John Nott, then defence secretary, on May 4, 1982 (Hansard, column 30) that the Belgrano and two destroyers "were closing on elements of our task force".

In the fog of war, mistakes can be made. What needs to be explained is why ministers did not put the record straight after the war.

The answer, I believe, concerns knowledge of the peace proposals. For legal reasons may I quote myself in Hansard (February 18, 1985, column 772) during the major Commons debate on the Belgrano: "The Argentine soldiers were to leave the Falkland Islands and the task force was to turn back. In that case the prime minister would have been deprived of her military victory, which the Falkland issue is all about, as I made plain at an early stage."

Yours etc., TAM DALYELL, House of Commons, January 2.

From Captain P. R. D. Kimm, RN (retired)

Sir, I missed one name in William Greaves's article on Hugh Scully's forthcoming TV series on the Falklands war, and one face among the photographs. Let us hope the series will give credit where the fleet did not — to Admiral of the Fleet Lord Fieldhouse, the victorious tri-service Commander-in-Chief.

Yours faithfully, PETER KIMM, 69 New Brighton Road, Emsworth, Hampshire, January 1.

Whilst watching it get worse. At least, the effort would have been made — and, incidentally, would be much more likely to win votes than lose them.

Yours faithfully, ALAN KING HAMILTON, Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, W1, January 2.

From Mr Michael J. Gordon

Sir, Mr Michael Spicer's prayers (letter, December 27) are commendable but do not go far enough. We should now follow the United States and make a bold cut in interest rates to spark monetary recovery.

We should stop supporting sterling at its present artificially high level and let it float down outside the ERM (exchange-rate mechanism) band. The economy would then move again, house sales would pick up and with sterling at a more realistic level vis-à-vis both the mark and the dollar our export sales would begin to prosper.

The advantages of this action to the electorate would far outweigh the stigma attached to realignment of sterling. We would at long last be correcting the error made when we entered the ERM at the wrong level and at the wrong time.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL J. GORDON, Rissington Mill, Little Rissington, Gloucestershire, December 31.

Business letters, page 23

Latin and eating

From Mr P. N. Poole-Wilson

Sir, Today's affection for Kennedy's *Latin Primer* (letters, December 27, January 3) is in marked contrast to the abuse it received in your correspondence columns when it first appeared in 1966. Between August 29 and November 9, 1966, you printed 27 letters devoted to it, occupying over 200 column inches. Most were letters of condemnation, many apparently from redundant tutors or "gradgrinds". One, signing himself "An Oxford DD", wrote: "It is a little learning but a dangerous thing, there are many dangerous things in this book. All that is really useful has been borrowed, and all the residue is bosh... The whole affair ought to be gibbeted as soon as possible."

The correspondence included two letters from Kennedy himself, who concluded: "I would teach grammar to children besides languages just as I would teach them geometry besides drawing, and algebra besides arithmetic... Grammar, like geometry, has its 'Asses' Bridge", but the value of a science is to be found, not in those who either cannot or will not, but in those who can and do again it."

Yours faithfully, P. N. POOLE-WILSON, Bernard Quaritch Ltd., 5-8 Lower John Street, Golden Square, W1.

From Mrs Norrie Isall

Sir, In the early Sixties, when I was studying A-level Latin at Malvern College, I was taught by a Mr Kennedy, otherwise known as Chris K. We found it hard to accept his repeated disclaimers to authorship of our "Revised Eating Primers": we knew that he had written many other Latin text books. He told us he was too young. We didn't believe him. After all, the first edition had been produced in 1966, and this would have made him almost 100 years old. He seemed at least that...

His idiosyncratic approach to the teaching of Latin required us to play dice against him each time we overlooked translations of individual words at the end of translation passages. On losing, we would hand over 6d. At the end of term, with his amassed fortune, he would take us out for cream teas.

Yours faithfully, NONIE INSALL, Barrowgate, Mark Way, Godalming, Surrey.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Blow to Alzheimer's disease research

From Sir Eldred Smith-Gordon

Sir, Your report (December 31) that "The break-up of Britain's leading research team investigating the genetic causes of Alzheimer's disease was yesterday blamed on scientists being paid so little that some cannot afford to run a car."

A few years ago I visited a member of the research team, at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, Paddington, on a publishing matter to do with Alzheimer's and remember a very enthusiastic and lively atmosphere among those workers.

Elsewhere in the same issue you report that, also at St Mary's, "The laboratory... where Sir Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin in 1928 is to become a museum".

Surely Fleming's place in the controversial history of penicillin calls for no added memorial save the achievement itself. But what the country needs is a set of priorities that will ensure that when these present St Mary's pioneers depart, in some cases for the United States, there are funds in Britain for their successors to work.

Your report was published on the same day as the new year honours were announced. Let those who hold the purse strings consider the achievers of the future, lest some day there are only office-holders to reward.

Yours sincerely, ELDRID SMITH-GORDON (Director), Smith-Gordon and Co. Ltd. (Medical publishers), Number 1, 16 Gunter Grove, SW10, January 1.

From Professor Chris Thompson

Sir, Your report on the tragic break-up of the pioneering Alzheimer's disease research team at St Mary's has very clearly shown the problem facing all university researchers in this country, who have not shared in the increase of national wealth

brought about during the Eighties. One can sympathise fully with their wishes to work in a more rewarding environment both personally and professionally.

However, the departure of the St Mary's team does not sound the death knell for genetic research in Alzheimer's disease in this country. The Mental Health Foundation, which part-funded the original breakthrough and had recently made further grants to the team, has now been able to divert the funds to the excellent psychiatric genetic team at the University of Wales in Cardiff, where the work is certain to be diligently completed.

Yours faithfully, CHRIS THOMPSON (Honorary Secretary, Research Committee, Mental Health Foundation), University of Southampton, Department of Psychiatry, Royal South Hants Hospital, Graham Road, Southampton, Hampshire, January 2.

From Mr Geoffrey Morgan

Sir, Looking after an Alzheimer's disease patient is a 24-hour caring job. Whether we value informal carers at £3 an hour or hospital care at £68 a day or psychiatric nursing-home care at £480 a week, the average value of extra care is in the region of £25,000 per annum per patient.

With an estimated 500,000 sufferers in the UK costing the country £12.5 billion annually, surely we should have kept the splendid St Mary's research team together in this country.

Yours faithfully, GEOFFREY MORGAN (Chairman, Salisbury branch, Alzheimer's Disease Society, Avon House, Old Manor Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire, December 31.

on a dark night, have been condemned to death.

Yours sincerely, NICHOLAS ANGEL, 26 The Grove, Radlett, Hertfordshire.

From Dr D. W. Green

Sir, With the news that a fourth person since August has been shot dead by police marksmen, it is not time that the police employed weapons which "stunned" rather than killed?

Expertise has been accumulated by pharmaceutical companies and veterinarians over the years in producing compounds, such as atropine, which immobilises wild animals, and diprenorphine, which reverses the effects.

Would it not be more sensible and humane for such technology to be utilised by the police rather than their present extremely offensive use of the conventional marksman's rifle?

Yours sincerely, D. W. GREEN, 65 Court Lane, SE21, January 2.

Shooting to kill

From Mr Nicholas C. Angel

Sir, A dead man ceases to be a dangerous man: that, presumably, is the philosophy behind what amounts to the shoot-to-kill policy when the police are confronted with a potentially lethal man brandishing a gun (report, January 2). Whether or not it is a replica is irrelevant.

But the refusal to follow a shoot-to-kill policy (a notion, according to one police officer interviewed, that "lives in cowboy fiction") is alarming.

If, assuming that police marksmen are able to shoot accurately, one can disarm a gunman and at the same time leave him alive, that surely is preferable to a situation where relatives feel a cold-blooded murder has been committed, and where public confidence in police judgment is, once again, undermined.

Most importantly, had the "gunman" shot dead on January 1 simply been disabled, he could then have been sentenced or otherwise in a court of law after careful consideration and not, in a heated moment

New Commons seat

From Mr Peter Butler

Sir, Milton Keynes celebrates its 25th birthday in 1992. One measure of its growth and success is that it will elect two MPs this year, for the first time. The retiring Conservative MP, Bill Benyon, has held the post since it was established. He originally won Buckingham (which then included Milton Keynes) from Mr Robert Maxwell (Labour), whose death you have recently reported in some detail.

Your list of MPs standing down and new candidates (January 2) omitted North East Milton Keynes, in which I am lucky enough to be the Conservative prospective candidate. This new seat will bring the number of MPs to 651, which is the largest number ever in the House of Commons.

Yours faithfully, PETER BUTLER, 60 High Street, Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, January 2.

From Major T. A. E. Gibson, RA (retired)

Sir, I was fortunate enough to get an MBE (I don't know if I deserved it) as a retired major, aged 59. My niece's husband was awarded the MBE as one recently promoted from sergeant to warrant officer class II, at the age of about 40. Good luck to him — isn't that "even" enough?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, T. A. E. GIBSON, 27 Chaucer Crescent, Newbury, Berkshire.

From Mr Ronald Bedford, OBE

Sir, A pity that John Major could not find room in his new year honours list for Britain's first space traveller, Helen Sharman. She showed the courage, and the faith in the future, that Britain needs so much. She went, she saw, she conquered — and with grace and modesty, too.

Yours disappointedly, RONALD BEDFORD, 5 The Vale, Broadstairs, Kent.

tenity of reinforced concrete.

Alas, we have no buns currently on display. Should the desire of James Bishop (letter, December 19) for the museum to move to Somerset House, or that of Marcus Binney (feature, November 16) for the museum to move to Smithfield Market, be realised, then more of our collection would be on public view.

Until that time, our buns are well cared for.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL LAUNCHBURY, Assistant Director, Museum of London, London Wall, EC2.

Election clichés

From Mr G. W. Edwards

Sir, Though appreciating the great comfort of clichés, would it not be a kindly act in this election year to warn our leaders that originality of expression might dangerously be confused with originality of thought?

In the past measures were never severe, always Draconian; and, like troubles, they never came singly but always arrived in "a package". Problems were always "addressed" (like packages, in fact). Cuts were "swinging". The economy will not be revived this year but "kick-started" into action.

As for myself, as I approach an interesting age, my only wish for the new year is to be seasonally adjusted and measured in real terms against a basket of mixed currencies. Trade-weighted, of course.

Yours faithfully, BILL EDWARDS, 65 Ledbury Road, W11, January 1.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Handwritten signature: Bill Edwards



COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 4: The Princess of Wales visited the Lord Clyde Centre at 90 Tyers Street, London SE11.
SANDRINGHAM
January 5: Divine service was

held at Sandringham Parish Church this morning.
The Bishop of Durham (The Right Reverend David Jenkins) preached the sermon.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Richard II, reigned 1377-99, Bordeaux, 1367; St Joan of Arc, Domremy, France, 1412; Jacques Bernoulli, mathematician, Basel, 1654; Jacques Etienne Montgolfier, balloonist, Annemey, France, 1745; Heinrich Schliemann, archaeologist, Newburg, Germany, 1822; Gustave Doré, artist and book illustrator, Strasbourg, 1832; Carl Sandburg, poet and biographer, Gatesburg, Illinois, 1878.

DEATHS: Baldassar Peruzzi, architect, Rome, 1536; Fanny Burney, novelist and diarist, London, 1840; Hanley Cole, writer, Garsmer, Cumbria, 1849; Louis Braille, inventor of the system bearing his name, Paris, 1852; Richard Henry Dana, writer, Rome, 1882.

Birthdays today

Major K.G. Adams, 72; Mr Rowan Atkinson, actor and comedian, 37; Mr Paul Azinger, golfer, 32; Lord Balfour of Burleigh, 65; Sir Ashley Bramall,

former chairman, GLC, 76; Major-General Sir Hamish Campbell, 87; Sir Robert Clark, former deputy chairman, TSB Group, 68; Mr John Croft, criminologist and oil painter, 69; Mr Kapil Dev, cricketer, 33; General Sir Martin Farndale, 63; Sir Hugh Fraser, water scientist, 69; Mr Barry John, rugby player, 47; Mr P.J. Kavanagh, writer, 61; Mr Christopher Lewinton, chairman, TI Group, 60; Miss Nancy Lopez, golfer, 35; Lord McColl of Dulwich, 59; Lord Plowden, 85; Mr Bill Sims, trades unionist, 72; Mr J.P. Sowden, former chairman, Costain Group, 75; Miss Sylvia Syms, actress, 58; Mr Terry Venables, football manager, 49; Sir Ernest Woodroffe, former chairman, Unilever, 80.

Service

appointments

Major M.J. Norman, Royal Marines, to be placed on the retired list on March 3, 1992.
The Rev. Canon J. Harris to be Principal Chaplain (Roman Catholic) in the RAF from January 28, 1992.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.N. Agnew and Dr S.A. Nolan-Hughes
The engagement is announced between Christopher Norris, younger son of Mr and Mrs Philip Agnew, of Kettering, Stamford, and Stephanie Ann, eldest daughter of Dr John Graham Hughes and the late Mrs Mary Hughes and stepdaughter of Mrs Lena Hughes, of Knokke, Belgium.

Mr W.A.G. Black and Miss J.G. Tripp
The engagement is announced between William Arthur Gordon, son of Mr William Gordon Black, of Montreal, and Mrs Janie Black, of Montreal, and Jennifer Gay, daughter of Mr and Mrs Norman Tripp, of Winchmore Hill, London.

Mr S.I. Bowyer and Miss T.J. Smellie
The engagement is announced between Simon, only son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Bowyer, of Naunton Beauchamp, Worcestershire, and Tonia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Smellie, of Rowington, Warwickshire.

Mr J.W. Brookman and Miss S.J. Robinson
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs John Brookman, of Reigate, Surrey, and Sarah, daughter of the late Lieutenant Colonel Derek Robinson and of Mrs Robinson, of Camberley, Surrey.

Mr A. Brown and Miss L.E. Ryder Richardson
The engagement is announced between Adam, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Brown, of Ansty, Dorset, and Lucy, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Ryder Richardson, of Weedon, Buckinghamshire.

Dr J.M. Bunting and Miss B.E. Worlock
The engagement is announced between John Martin Bunting, son of the late Dr John Bunting and of Mrs Rita Bunting, of Weydon Garden City, Hertfordshire, and Belinda Euren, daughter of Dr Freddy and the Hon Mrs Anna Worlock, of Huddersfield, Worcestershire.

Mr D.J. Clarke and Miss J.S. Payne
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs H. Clarke, of Salcombe, and Joanna, daughter of the late Mr Derek Payne and of Mrs Peter Barrows, of Chappone End, Hertfordshire.

Captain S.C. Dexter and Miss M.M. Franklin
The engagement is announced between Sean Dexter, Royal Signals, son of Mr and Mrs A.C. Dexter, of Sussex, and Monica, daughter of Mr and Mrs M.G. Franklin, of Hythe, Kent.

Mr C.S.J. Dickson and Miss C.E.C. Jones
The engagement is announced between St John, only son of Mrs Robert Dickson and the late Dr R.J. Dickson, of North Kensington, and Charlotte Emma Carolyn, only daughter of Mr and Mrs William Jones, of Rowstock, Oxfordshire.

Dr H.C.J. Godfrey and Miss C.E.M. Elmille
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of the late Mr Hugh Godfrey and of Mrs Annette Tingley and stepson of Mr Paul Tingley, of Mayfield, Sussex, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Elmille, of West Lavington, Sussex.

Mr T.R.W. Heppel and Mrs A.J. Palmer
The engagement is announced between Toby Heppel and Amanda Palmer (née Kidway).

Mr N.J.P. Hutton and Miss C.A.H. Smith
The engagement is announced between Nigel, younger son of Mr and Mrs N.J. Hutton, of Thorman House, Cambridge, and Catherine, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs D.H. Smith, of Swinhead, Boston, Lincolnshire.

Mr P.A. McKellar and Miss K.S. Macintyre
The engagement is announced between Peter Archibald, elder son of Mr and Mrs A. McKellar, of Edinburgh, and Kathleen Scarlett, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Macintyre, also of Edinburgh.

Mr P.V. Paglierani and Miss S.A. Willis
The engagement is announced between Paolo, son of the late Mr and Mrs Luigi Paglierani, and Sarah Anne, daughter of the Rev Peter and Mrs Willis, of Dipford, Devon.

Mr D.N.H. Pennant and Miss A.L. Roynon
The engagement is announced between Donald, younger son of Mr and Mrs Piers Pennant, of Sydenham, London, and Alison Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gavin Roynon, of Wargrave, Berkshire.

Mr B.S.J. Perrot and Miss K.M.N. Naylor
The engagement is announced between Brian, son of Mr and Mrs T.D. Perrot, of Chislehurst, and Kimberley, daughter of Mr and Mrs Z.I. Naylor, of Sidcup.

Mr M.V.L. Rogerson and Miss S.M. Sainley-Berry
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs D.C.L. Rogerson, of Javea, Spain, and Sarah, daughter of Mrs R. Sainley-Berry, of Tarrion, Gloucestershire, and Mr G.O.E. Sainley-Berry, of Le Gaillard, France.

Mr C.B. Scott and Miss S.L. Credland
The engagement is announced between Colum, only son of Mr and Mrs David Scott, of Glenaross, Isle of Mull, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr Michael Credland, of Romsey, Hampshire, and of Mrs Jean Credland, of Fins Cottage, Fleet, Hampshire.

Mr M. Targent and Miss C.F. Horwood
The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Mr and Mrs E.P. Targent, of Harborne, Birmingham, and Claire, daughter of Mrs R. Horwood, of Helidon, Northamptonshire.

Mr C.J. Waters and Miss S.A. Thompson
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Arthur Waters, of Northaw, Hertfordshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Thompson, of Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

Mr C.P.J. Wightman and Miss E.L. Sampson
The engagement is announced between Christopher, youngest son of the late Mr G. Wightman and of Mrs E. Wightman, of Barnegate House, Barnegate, Berkshire, and Emma, younger daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs R.K. Sampson, of Manningford Abbas, Pewsey, Wiltshire.

Major N.D. Wyllie Carrick and Miss C.M. Vassouros
The engagement is announced between Nigel Dermot Wyllie Carrick, 2nd King Edward VII's Gurkhas (The Sirmoor Rifles), elder son of Major and Mrs N. Wyllie Carrick, of Dunblane, Abkhaz, Cirencester, and Catherine Mary, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Vassouros, of Sevenoaks.

Marriages

Mr T. Miles and Miss E. Huggitt
The marriage took place on Saturday, January 4, between Mr Timothy Miles, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Miles, and Miss Elizabeth Huggitt, daughter of Dr and Mrs Robin Huggitt.

Dr T.G. Stevens and Miss A.K. Swallow
The marriage took place on Saturday, at St Mary's Church, Chesham, between Dr Thomas Stevens, younger son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Stevens, of Chilworth, Surrey, and Miss Amanda Swallow, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Swallow, of Witley, West Sussex. The Rev Michael Stokes officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and attended by the Hon Laura Finch-Knightley, Theo Bosson and Jack Grimes. Mr Simon Whiteside was best man.
A reception was held at Manor Barn House.

OBITUARIES

DAME JUDITH ANDERSON

Dame Judith Anderson, actress, died in Santa Barbara, California, on January 3 aged 93. She was born in Adelaide on February 10, 1898.

JUDITH Anderson will be best remembered for her portrayal of the sinister and ultimately incinerated Mrs Danvers in the Hitchcock film *Rebecca* (1940), for which she was nominated for an Academy Award. But her career was primarily in the classical theatre, with a heavy emphasis on Greek tragedy and Shakespeare and although an Australian she achieved her most enduring success, on stage as well as on film, in America: she is to date the only woman to have played the title role in *Hamlet* at New York's Carnegie Hall. Her portrayal was slanted as bloodless by the critics but she won a television Emmy Award in 1954 for her performance in *Macbeth* in a production televised for the American network NBC's "Hallmark Hall of Fame".

The high period in her career began in 1936 when she played Gertrude to Gielgud's Hamlet on Broadway. "Now that I have begun my classical education," she said, "do I dare breathe that I have dreamed of Lady Macbeth and now wish to act her?" A year later she played the part opposite Laurence Olivier at the Old Vic. She was 39 and it was her first appearance in London. Michel Saint-Denis's production was voted puzzling by audiences and on being transferred, to the New Theatre in the West End it languished there. In 1941, however, Anderson's Lady Macbeth, opposite the British born Maurice Evans on Broadway was a big success and rated very highly by the critics.

One of her last roles was in 1984, at the age 86, when she played a grand dame in NBC television's daytime soap-opera *Santa Barbara*, where she also happened to live.

Judith Anderson was born Frances Margaret Anderson. Her father was Scottish by descent, her mother English and she was one of four children. Her first appearance on stage was at the age of 17 in *A Royal Divorce* at the Theatre Royal in Sydney. Then, after a year spent touring Australia in *Monsieur Beaucaire* and *The Scarlet*



Pimpernel she moved to America in 1918, and made the rest of her life and career there.

Her Broadway debut was in a stock company at the old 14th Street Playhouse: in 1920, she toured the United States with William Gillette in *Dear Brutus*. By then, critics were already commenting on her "unrestrained" stage style which some were uncharitable enough to define as overacting in the grand manner.

Through the 1920s she played with a series of stock and regional companies until (after a brief return to her homeland in 1927) she succeeded Lynn Fontanne as Nina in O'Neill's *Strange Interlude* on Broadway. Three years later she was Lavinia in O'Neill's *Mourning Becomes Electra*

and then, in 1936, Gertrude to Gielgud's Broadway *Hamlet*. After her stage success as Lady Macbeth she repeated it twice on television during the 1950s, performances described by one local critic as "alternately vibrant, calculating, cruel, regal and pitiful; the intricacy of the characterisation was knitted so faultlessly that it had a thrilling power."

Judith Anderson's other great role was as Medea, most notably in a 1947 production which she invited Gielgud to direct and co-star in as Jason, though he was less than entirely happy with either his production or his performance. She again played Medea in Australia for the opening of the Elizabethan Theatre Trust's first

season in 1955 and in Paris at the second Drama Festival, but not in Britain. In 1959 she filmed her Lady Macbeth opposite Maurice Evans but much of her later career on stage met with less success as modern audiences grew disenchanted with her often larger-than-life performances. She appeared in more than 25 films including *Stage Door Canteen*, *Salome* and *The Ten Commandments* but her films only occasionally achieved the distinction of the 1958 *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* in which she played Big Mama alongside Burt Ives, Elizabeth Taylor and Paul Newman.

Her post-war stage work included a sinister Miss Madrigal in the first production of Enid Bagnold's *The Chalk Garden* on Broadway (the role later played in London by Peggy Ashcroft), and a 1960 appearance at the Edinburgh Festival as Arkadina in a production of *The Seagull* which marked the stage debut of Tom Courtenay.

Back in America, she took increasingly to solo recitals featuring highlights from her former Shakespearean and Greek triumphs, although when she played one of these "Evenings With" at her own native Adelaide Festival, the local press was distinctly less than ecstatic.

She was created a Dame of the British Empire in the New Year Honours of 1960.

She continued to be active occasionally in films appearing in *Cinderella* (1960), *A Man Called Horse* (1970), *Inn of the Damned* (1974), and *Star Trek II* (1984).

Judith Anderson married twice, first to Benjamin Lehman and secondly to Luther Greene, with both marriages ending in divorce.

Her reputation seems likely to rest on her two major classical performances, notably the Medea of which Rosamund Gilder once wrote "it is pure evil, dark, dangerous, cruel, raging, ruthless. From beginning to end she maintains an almost incredible intensity, yet she varies her mood so constantly and moves with such skill through unexplored regions of pain and despair that she can hold her audience in suspense throughout the evening."

There followed three years in Brussels as Britain's representative on Nato's military committee before he finally retired in 1980.

Steedman was deeply affected by the death of his wife Dorothy within three years of his leaving the RAF. As if in compensation for the loss, he energetically immersed himself in his new job as controller of the RAF Benevolent Fund — until he retired from that too over three years ago.

He also became, among many other things, patron of the Central Flying School Association and was elected to the court of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators. He was made chairman of the governors of his old school at Hampton — which also provided him with a great source of pride by naming its new sports centre after him.

He is survived by his son and two daughters.

SIR ALASDAIR STEEDMAN

Air Chief Marshal Sir Alasdair Steedman, GCB, CBE, DFC, former UK Military Representative to Nato and later controller of the RAF Benevolent Fund, died on January 2 aged 69. He was born on January 29, 1922.

ALASDAIR Steedman owed his passion for Italian opera to a ploughed-up airstrip, a 15-hundredweight truck and, perhaps most of all, to the bravery of his driver. The scene was Florence in the autumn of 1944. Steedman, aged 22, was landing at the newly liberated airport, on a runway ploughed up by the retreating Germans when his Spitfire undercarriage caught on the rough ground. The plane slewed across the airfield, smashed into the fuel-laden lorry and exploded. Only the heroism of the driver, who dove into the fireball to drag him out, saved Steedman's life. Badly burned on the arms and legs, he was rushed to an RAF hospital in Sorrento where he spent several weeks recovering. His doctor, a musically-minded air commodore, in order to relieve the tedium for his young patient, introduced

him to the opera house in nearby Naples — instilling a love of the art form which continued to give him great joy throughout his life.

The near-fatal disaster at Florence was, however, only the narrowest of a number of escapes by Steedman during a hectic war, flying reconnaissance and ground attack missions in support of the Eighth Army over north Africa, Sicily, Italy and the Rhine. In June 1943, as a flight commander with 241 squadron, he was strafing a German truck convoy near Ancona when his port wing fuel-tank was holed by shrapnel. Aware that little flying time was left to him, he crash-landed in a field to emerge shaken, badly bruised but otherwise unhurt. 120 miles behind enemy lines. The next three weeks were worth an autobiography on their own as Steedman trekked his way back across the mountains. At one stage he teamed up with an SAS soldier, who was on a special operation, until they were forced to separate by an approaching German patrol. At another point he hitched a lift on the rear mudguard of a single-seater motor-cycle, until he decided he was safer on



two legs. Sheltered at times by the partisans and once by a mountain shepherd and his family, an exhausted Steedman finally stumbled back to base. Technically classified as an "escaped prisoner-of-war" he was banned from further operational flying in Italy. He was therefore posted as ADC to (Acting) Air Vice Marshal William Dickson, commanding the Desert Air Force in Italy (later to become Marshal of the RAF Sir William Dickson, Chief of the Defence Staff). It was in that role that he nearly lost his life at Florence. His

award of the DFC that year, however, recognised a natural talent in the air which steadily developed after the war. After commanding squadrons in Khartoum, then in Aden, his qualification as a category-A1 instructor and his appointment as chief instructor at the Central Flying School in the mid-50s confirmed his reputation as one of the finest pilots of his generation. Throughout his career he climbed into every cockpit he could find and, by the time he retired, had flown 64 aircraft types, including helicopters.

Alasdair Steedman was born at Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, of Scottish parents and was brought up in Middlesex where he went to Hampton Grammar School. His first job was in the City, which he loathed. In 1941, however, aged 19, he achieved his ambition: to join the RAF and learn to fly.

After the war he climbed inexorably upwards. He was the last expatriate commander of both the Ceylon and Malayan air forces, in 1957-59 and 1965-67 respectively and in between was station commander at RAF Lyneham — in the news last

year as the reception base for freed British hostages from Lebanon. Then after three years as commandant of the RAF Staff College, Bracknell, he joined the Air Force Board as the member for Supply and Organisation — responsible for equipment and its maintenance.

There followed three years in Brussels as Britain's representative on Nato's military committee before he finally retired in 1980.

Steedman was deeply affected by the death of his wife Dorothy within three years of his leaving the RAF. As if in compensation for the loss, he energetically immersed himself in his new job as controller of the RAF Benevolent Fund — until he retired from that too over three years ago.

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He is survived by his son and two daughters.

School announcements

Aiglon College, Switzerland
Term begins on January 7. School guardians are Nina Bischofberger and Dilip Madhavan; captain of girls' skiing Catherine Vezey White and captain of boys' skiing Sebastian Calleri-Zavanelli. The School play, *Oh What a Lovely War*, will be performed at Parents' Weekend on February 21. The annual reunion of the Eagle Association will take place at the Royal Automobile Club in London on March 5, followed by a reception for interested parents on March 6. For information about the latter please contact the school.

Brentwood School (HMC)
The Lent Term begins today. The Entrance Examination for the Main and Preparatory Schools takes place on January 21. Half-term is from February 21 until March 1. A Jazz Concert will be held in the Memorial Hall on January 31, and an Orchestra Concert will be held on March 13. The Junior School Play *Oliver* will be performed from March 18 until March 21. Term ends on March 27.

Cheltenham College
Term begins today at Cheltenham College and ends on Friday, March 20.

Scholarship examinations with specific reference to the International Baccalaureate will be held on January 31 and February 1. The 13+ Music, Art and CDT scholarship examinations will take place on February 3, and the 13+ Academic scholarship examinations will be held on March 2, 3 and 4. General Studies lectures this term will include John Julius Norwich, David Kossoff, Matthew Parris and Alistair Graham. Council have appointed Mr Nigel Archdale, currently Headmaster of the Royal Wolverhampton Junior School, to be Headmaster of

the Cheltenham College Junior School from September 1, in succession to Mr David Cassell.

Collingham, London
The Spring Term at Collingham begins today and ends on Thursday, April 2. Half-term is on Thursday and Friday, February 10 and 11. The mock A Level exams begin on Monday, March 30. There are A Level and GCSE Easter Revision Courses from Tuesday, March 31, to Thursday, April 16.

The John Fisher School
The Lent Term at The John Fisher School, now a Grant Maintained School, begins today. Mr M.J. Thelwell, CEng, continues as Chairman of Governors. Mr T.J. King, MA, as Head Master and Robert Berkeley as Captain of School. Founders Day is on Thursday, March 5, and the term ends on Tuesday, April 7.

The King's School, Canterbury
Lent Term begins today. Ms A Thomas succeeds Ms J Exelby as Housemistress of Balmesley House. The Archbishop of Canterbury will visit the School on Monday, February 3, and will confirm on Sunday, March 15. Term ends on Saturday, March 28.

Milestone College
Second Term begins today and ends on April 3. Half-term is from Monday, February 17 to Friday, February 21.

Moira House, Eastbourne
Easter Term begins today and ends on March 21. Anna Lowndes and Claire Walters continue as School Knights. The Ingham Scholarship examinations for entry into the Junior School and the Senior School will be held on January 17 and 18. Full details are available from the Headmaster's Secretary. The Middle School play, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, will be performed on

March 6 and 7. The Annual Concerts are on March 13 and 14. Old Girls' Day is Sunday March 15, from 11am and all Old Girls and their families are invited to the school. The Association Hockey Tournament will be held on the afternoon of Old Girls' Day. We welcome an exchange group of pupils from The Treport from March 13 to 21. Term concludes with the School Confirmation Service at All Saints on Thursday, March 19. We would like to record our thanks to the Bishop of Lewes for presiding over our Service of Confirmation for many years. We wish him every happiness in his new work as Bishop of Gloucester.

Oakham School
Spring Term at Oakham School begins today. The Choral Society will perform the *Symphony of Psalms* by Stravinsky and Benjamin Britten's *St Nicholas* on Sunday March 8. The principal drama production will be *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller. This will take place in Queen Elizabeth Theatre on February 25, 26 and 27. Junior Entry Examinations (11 yrs) will be held on January 27 and 28. Scholarships (13 yrs) in Art, Design and Technology and Music Scholarship auditions (11 and 13 yrs) will be held on February 3 and 4. Scholarship Examinations (13 yrs) will be held on February 10, 11 and 12.

The Oratory School
Lent Term begins today, with Mr Simon Barrow taking up his appointment as Headmaster in succession to Mr Maurice Lynn. Mr J.C. Harris and Mr P.D. Keddie have been appointed Assistant Headmasters, and Mr A.J. Tinkel has been appointed Senior Master. Mr W.C.R. Ibbotson-Foster has been appointed Headmaster of Norris House, in succession to Mr Barrow. R.M. Holmes continues as School Captain. Captain of Soc-

cer is C.P. French. The Opera Society will perform *Le Nozze di Figaro* on January 10 and 11. Half-term will be from February 8 to 12. Confirmation will be on March 7. Term ends on March 25.

Pipers Corner School, High Wycombe
The Spring Term begins today at Pipers Corner School with 380 pupils. Sixth Form Scholarship examinations will be held on January 20 and 21 and interviews on February 6. On February 13, the school will be hosting the regional final of the Observer Match Debating competition. Term ends on Friday, April 3.

Repton School
Lent Term begins today and ends on March 21. The School Play, *Amadeus*, will be performed from March 16 to 19. The Governors are pleased to announce that the target of £1 million for the Repton Schools' Appeal has now been exceeded.

Rosemead School, Littlehampton
Spring term begins today, January 6, 1992. Ruth Wiseman is Head Girl, Alexandra Mills is Deputy Head Girl. Calling all Old Rosemeadians — we are making up our guest list for our 75th Anniversary in 1994. If you have lost touch, please contact us (0903-716065).

St Catherine's School, Bramley
At St Catherine's School, Bramley, the Spring Term begins on Thursday, January 9, with Rhian Dobell as Head Girl and Sally Hargreaves as Senior Daygirl. The Confirmation Service, taken by the Bishop of Guildford, will be held on Saturday, February 29. The date for Speech Day in the summer has been altered to Saturday, June 27. Prize Giving will be held in Guildford Cathedral at 10.30am.

Royal Ascot

Her Majesty's Representative at Ascot wishes to announce that there will again be a limited number of Royal Enclosure vouchers available for new applicants for Friday, June 19 only of the Royal Meeting.

New applicants wishing to apply for these vouchers should write to Her Majesty's Representative, The Ascot Office, St James's Palace, London, SW1B 1BP, before March 31, stating the full names of those members of their family who require vouchers, together with their ages if between 16 and 25 years.

Sponsorship forms will then be sent which should be signed by a sponsor, who has been present in the Royal Enclosure for at least eight years. A ballot will be held and all new applicants will be notified of the result by mid May.

Those applicants who were unsuccessful in previous ballots will again be required to submit their applications in writing and will be subject to the 1992 ballot, but the signature of a sponsor will not be necessary.

Previous holders of Royal Enclosure vouchers should apply in writing in the usual way before the end of April, stating their full names and ages if between 16 and 25 years.

In addition they may also apply for their children aged between 16 and 25 years who have not been granted Royal Enclosure vouchers previously. They will require a sponsor who has been present in the Royal Enclosure for eight years. Vouchers if granted, will be valid for the Friday only of the Royal Meeting and should be applied for before March 31.

In the enclosure ladies will wear formal day dress with a hat which must cover the crown of the head. Gentlemen will wear morning dress with top hat, or service dress.

Memorial service

Dr Douglas Johnson
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Dr Douglas Johnson was held on Saturday at St Mary's, Fittleworth, West Sussex. Canon Francis Dwyer officiated. Dr Oliver Barclay and Dr Keith Sanders read the lessons. Dr Andrew Ferguson, General Secretary of the Christian Medical Fellowship, read from John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* and the Right Rev Lord Cogan gave an address.

The Right Hon the Earl Attlee

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of the Right Hon the Earl Attlee will be held in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, on Thursday, January 30, at noon. Tickets are not required. All are welcome.

The British Library

Normal services including evening and Saturday opening will resume in all British Library Reading Rooms from Monday, January 6, 1992. For further information call 071-523 7683.

8.00 Ceefax (70322) 6.30 BBC Breakfast News (0607452)
9.05 Robert Kilroy-Glik chairs a studio discussion on Britain's Home Programme (0500070) 9.50 Hot Chicks: Colwyn chief Clive Howe presents a series of interviews with top models (222418)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (2513803) 10.05 Playdays (0722235) 10.25 Pingu (0722235) 10.35 No Kidding: Outrageous show for families (0722235)
11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 Rosemary Conley. The first of a new series of keep fit and dietary advice (7115419) 11.30 People Today presented by Miam Stoppard and Adrian Mills. Includes Philip Hodge with his regular phone-in counselling slot. With news, regional news and weather at 12.00 (0677877)
12.20 Fashions: Among the guests is veteran actor Robert Morley (4327433) 12.55 Regional News and weather (7210038)
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather (7210038)
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (07032497) 1.50 Going For Gold. Henry Kelly returns from the festive season break with another round of the quiz with European contestants (2222505)
2.15 Knots Landing: West coast soap-off from the Dallas epic (7847051) 3.00 The Odd Couple. American comedy series presented by James Hughes (6417148)
3.50 Bananaman (0722257) 3.55 Radio Rona. Episode one of a 13-part comedy drama. The first of a five-part series of David Bowie's tale. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (0198070) 4.35 Fantastic Max. Cartoon (0116038) 4.35 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles. (Ceefax) (0608051)
5.00 Newsround (0509022) 5.10 Blue Peter. (Ceefax) (07118964) 5.30 Neighbours (07032497) (Ceefax) (0603032). Northern Ireland Inside Ulster (195)
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Jill Dando. (Ceefax) (0603032)
6.30 Regional News magazines (821). Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 Wogan. Terry welcomes Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie (0714167) 7.30 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em. Michael Crawford stars as the sociopathic-prone Frank Spencer in another episode from the 1970s comedy hit (07225)
8.00 May to December. Age-appropriate comedy starring Anton Rodgers and Lesley Dunlop. In tonight's episode, Alice and Zoe celebrate the first anniversary of their living together. (Ceefax) (0615)



Man's ruthless relation: a Tai forest chimpanzee (8.30pm)

8.30 Wildlife on One: Too Close For Comfort?
CHOICE: The nineteenth series of the natural history programme opens in the Tai Forest of the Ivory Coast. Covering 1,600 square miles, it is the oldest and richest rainforest in west Africa and no one, apparently, is trying to cut it down. So wildlife, not to mention film crews gathering material for wildlife programmes, can wander undisturbed. The film concentrates on a 60-hectare group of chimpanzees who can claim to be man's nearest relatives. That is to say they form a complex society, are unusually advanced in their use of tools and live by killing their fellow animals. Their most spectacular prey are the forest's monkeys, beautiful and athletic creatures who, you may think, do not deserve to be hunted down and torn to pieces for food. But in the natural world almost anything goes, and even Sir David Attenborough can hardly contain his exuberance as the chimps move in for the kill. (Ceefax) (07222)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (2544)
9.30 Film: The Hills Have Strangers (1988) starring Richard Crenna and Billy Zane. Unpleasant thriller about a Los Angeles detective's obsession with bringing a serial killer to justice. Directed by Steven Soderbergh. (Ceefax) (07222)
1.05 Match of the Day. Highlights from tonight's FA Cup third round match between fourth division Crewe Alexandra and Liverpool. The commentator is Tony Gubbe, with comment from former Liverpool captain Alan Hansen (060612)
1.40 Play For Tomorrow. A documentary making the case for high quality nursery education, pointing out how the human brain is influenced by early experiences (07222)
2.20 News. (Ceefax) (0615)

ANGLIA

As London except 6.25pm-7.00pm Anglia News (060412)

BORDER

As London except 1.50pm-2.30pm Graham Kerr (060709) 2.30-3.00pm News (060709) 3.00-3.30pm News (060709) 3.30-4.00pm News (060709) 4.00-4.30pm News (060709) 4.30-5.00pm News (060709) 5.00-5.30pm News (060709) 5.30-6.00pm News (060709) 6.00-6.30pm News (060709) 6.30-7.00pm News (060709) 7.00-7.30pm News (060709) 7.30-8.00pm News (060709) 8.00-8.30pm News (060709) 8.30-9.00pm News (060709) 9.00-9.30pm News (060709) 9.30-10.00pm News (060709) 10.00-10.30pm News (060709) 10.30-11.00pm News (060709) 11.00-11.30pm News (060709) 11.30-12.00pm News (060709) 12.00-12.30pm News (060709) 12.30-1.00pm News (060709) 1.00-1.30pm News (060709) 1.30-2.00pm News (060709) 2.00-2.30pm News (060709) 2.30-3.00pm News (060709) 3.00-3.30pm News (060709) 3.30-4.00pm News (060709) 4.00-4.30pm News (060709) 4.30-5.00pm News (060709) 5.00-5.30pm News (060709) 5.30-6.00pm News (060709) 6.00-6.30pm News (060709) 6.30-7.00pm News (060709) 7.00-7.30pm News (060709) 7.30-8.00pm News (060709) 8.00-8.30pm News (060709) 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MAN OF
THE WEEK

Dixons
master
of retail
keep-fit

Refreshed by a cruise in the Caribbean to celebrate his 60th birthday, Stanley Kalms should be in fine form to present Dixons' half-year profits to the City on Wednesday.

Since the bid from Kingfisher two years ago, the sometimes chubby Kalms has been revitalised, working out at the Meridian Gym in London's West End three times a week. He has been punishing his company just as hard.

Money has been poured into staff training, tired old sites have been closed, new sites opened, fresh management brought in, and market share increased.

Profits are expected to be down by about a third on the £27 million reported for the same six months last year, owing mainly to losses in America. But what everyone really



Kalms: punishing

wants to know is how Christmas went.

If the news is good, as many suspect, Kalms may lapse into some of the superlatives for which he is famous. After 46 years in the business, he is a master retailer who takes whatever fortune throws at him with aggressive vigour. "Every single situation should be seen as a challenge," he said recently.

Born under the star sign Scorpio, he admits to being impatient, a perfectionist and a bit of a bully. While he is ruthless in business, however, his warmth and humour endear him to friends and rivals alike. Despite his swish flat overlooking Green Park and his yacht, *Teak Moi*, moored off Antibes, he is the least pretentious of all the tycoons. He also has a thoughtful side, disliking the aspect of capitalism which ignores social issues, and referring to his own lack of classical education as "an absolute disaster". A millionaire since he was 30, he has never lost his enthusiasm for the business and an inexhaustible fascination with new products. Perhaps this week he will predict the best sellers of 1992.

JUDI BEVAN

Week ahead, page 27

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8520 (-0.0247)
German mark
2.8567 (+0.0107)
Exchange index
91.4 (-0.3)

Bank of England official
close (9pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1901.4 (+59.6)
FT-SE 100
2504.1 (+85.4)
New York Dow Jones
3201.48 (+99.96)
Tokyo Nikkei Avege
Closed

CBI data show lower pay deals and higher productivity

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PRODUCTIVITY in manufacturing is expected to accelerate sharply over the next year, the Confederation of British Industry forecasts as it reports a continuing decline in pay settlements across industry.

Figures from the CBI's pay database also suggest that the decline in pay settlements might be slowing down and that a floor for wage deals might have been reached.

The CBI's employment affairs

report, published today, reflects in its productivity forecasts the impact of both falling wage deals and lower employment levels. Of those companies that reached wage agreements in the third quarter of last year, annual productivity gains averaging 5.5 per cent were reported to the CBI, against 3.4 per cent in the previous two quarters.

Looking ahead to expected productivity growth over the next 12 months, companies in the CBI's survey are forecasting a sharp rise — up from 4.9 per cent in the

second quarter of last year to 6.4 per cent in the third quarter. Similar figures a year ago overstated likely productivity growth, though not by much, suggesting that the CBI's estimate of improvements in productivity might be a reliable guide to future trends.

Pay settlement levels are continuing to fall, with companies reporting deals running at an average of 5.4 per cent for the third quarter, against 6.3 per cent in the previous quarter and 8.8 per cent a year earlier. The CBI says that details of

the first few settlements for the last quarter of last year show a further decline. However, the revised figure of 5.4 per cent has been barely altered from the CBI's previous estimate for this quarter of 5.5 per cent. This suggests that later pay details might not be continuing the markedly downward trend seen during the past 12 months.

Many business leaders have been concerned that pay rises overall will not fall through a floor of about 5 per cent, even though retail price inflation is below that. With inflation

forecast by the Chancellor, to rise over the next few months, some company negotiators fear that the low point for pay rises might have been reached, and that the level of pay deals might start to creep up again, especially if there is an improvement in the economy.

Pay deals in the private service sector are continuing to run well above inflation. CBI figures show average settlements for the second half of last year running at 6.4 per cent. While this is down on the 7.1 per cent in the first half, it is above

the level ministers would like. CBI leaders are taking some comfort that their figures show one in four manufacturing settlements running at or below 3.5 per cent.

Sir John Banham, CBI director general, said: "With productivity in UK manufacturing industry rising, and pay settlements now below the level of those in West Germany and closing on those in France, the outlook for the competitiveness of British business for inflation and, in the longer term, for interest rates is good."

JULIAN HERBERT

Heavy tax bills
threaten closure
for small firms

BY DEREK HARRIS

THOUSANDS of small firms face closure this year as they struggle to meet tax bills based on boom-time profits earned up to 20 months ago.

The threat of closures was described by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) as "horrific" for a sector that Michael Howard, the employment minister, has described as "the bedrock of the economy". Bill Knox, the FSB chairman, believes the January "blight-of-bills" could rapidly accelerate an already soaring rate of closures to the worst seen for years.

Toni O'Connor, chairman of the Confederation of British Industry's smaller firms council, said the outlook for small businesses in the first quarter of this year looked bleak. "It has hit us hard," he said, "but it has been anticipated by the CBI."

Under the current tax system, business taxes can be

levied up to 21 months in arrears, assuming a small business is up to date in putting in returns.

With many small businesses barely profitable in the current recession, the prospect of sizeable tax bills based on prior years' income is daunting.

Conservative backbenchers and small business leaders are likely to campaign for sympathetic treatment from the government and the Inland Revenue.

Many businesses will be forced to seek Revenue agreement to pay their tax bills in stages. This will give a breathing space of no more than a few months. In the meantime, interest charged on unpaid tax continues to accumulate.

"The self-employed sector, which covers most small businesses except those that are incorporated, pays out more than £30 billion in tax a year, in two instalments falling due

at the start and middle of the year.

For the self-employed and partnerships, the half-year bills fell due on January 1, while value-added tax demands for the quarter ended in December have to be met by the end of this month.

If a business can show it has fallen into current year losses it should be possible to secure stage payments, Philip Hardman, senior tax partner at Grant Thornton, the chartered accountant which specialises in small and medium-sized businesses, said. Evidence of mounting financial difficulty could also secure a dispensation.

Sometimes a tax inspector will, in difficult circumstances, allow current losses to be offset against previous year profits but this is not the norm, said Mr Hardman. He gave warning that while it was possible, it was much tougher to secure stage payment deals for value-added tax dues.

The latest CBI industrial trends analysis for small businesses, due this month, looks likely to reflect the gloom of the latest published industrial trends survey from the CBI.

Mr O'Connor said: "For small businesses things are looking fairly bleak and in making provision for outgoings at this time of the year they will have a very difficult time."

"Exports seem to be drying up fairly rapidly while the home market has been stagnant for some time."

He added: "Previously, we had not expected improvements before the first quarter of 1992. Now we have approached that first quarter we are beginning to wonder whether we are right. It seems now it will not bring the improvement we expected."

The FSB has predicted that more than 50,000 businesses will prove to have failed last year of which it believes at least 40,000 will have been small firms.

Banks' move
welcomed

ERIC Forth, the small firms minister, has welcomed the codes of practice, introduced by the big five clearing banks, for dealing with small business customers.

The codes were drawn up at the request of Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, after protests from small firms about their treatment by the clearers.

Lamont reinforces
devaluation vow

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont, the Chancellor, has reinforced his commitment to keep the pound firmly in the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM), saying he is "totally opposed" to devaluation.

His rejection of devaluation in a TV interview yesterday was his most strongly worded comment to date. Importantly, it came on the eve of sterling's post-new-year test in a fully operating global foreign exchange market. All the main financial centres are open for normal trading from today. The pound established a firmer tone, reaching DM2.8567 at the Bank of England's close on Friday, but the advance largely reflected the sagging mark.

Sterling was comfortably clear of its effective floor in the ERM, at which point the authorities are obliged to intervene. Money market pressure for a base rate increase also subsided for the first time since the Bundesbank raised its key lending rates aggressively just before Christmas. Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank, said last week there was no immediate need to raise interest rates.

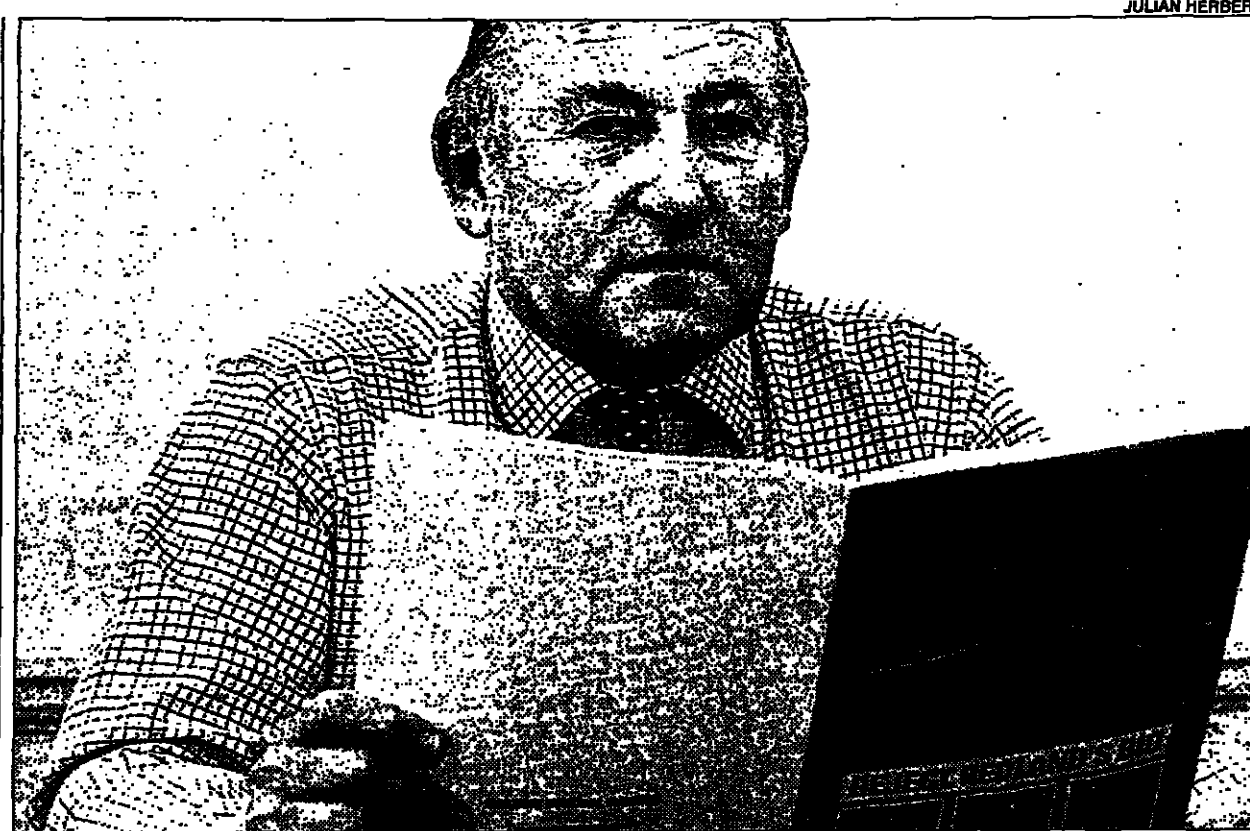
Sterling's improvement could be short-lived if the currency market changes its

mind. Last week the focus was mainly on the dollar rebound against the weakening mark. Mr Lamont said yesterday the economic forecast accompanying his autumn statement would turn out to be "over-optimistic". He had predicted 2.25 per cent growth for 1992.

Last week, the Confederation of British Industry downgraded its 1992 growth forecast to 1 per cent from 1.7 per cent. Goldman Sachs economics research group, in its latest forecast, has downgraded its growth prediction to 1.7 per cent from 2.2 per cent, broadly in line with the Treasury. Gavin Davies, the group's chief UK economist, said: "More worrying is the possibility that the economy is slipping into a second leg of recession — a double dip recession can no longer be safely ruled out." He believes a further period of broadly flat economic activity, probably lasting into the spring or early summer, was more likely.

A more bearish scenario is in the latest forecast from the Cambridge Economic Policy Group, which expects the economy to shrink 0.8 per cent this year after a 2.5 per cent fall last year.

Labour tax focus, page 1



Fighting back: David Donne, with Steetley's defence document against the Redland bid, yesterday

Steetley
pledges
to hold
dividend

BY MARTIN BARROW

STEETLEY, the bricks and aggregates business fighting a £581.4 million hostile bid from Redland, has pledged to maintain the dividend for 1991 at 14p a share despite a 62 per cent fall in profits.

Steetley has also promised to recommend at least the same level of dividend for 1992 although it concedes that current trading conditions are the most difficult it has experienced since the Second World War.

In its first defence against the all-shares bid by Redland, Steetley estimated that profits for the year to end-December had fallen from £85 million before tax to £32.5 million. Earnings were 12.9p a share (34.8p), leaving the dividend, maintained with a final payment of 9p, uncovered.

Robert Napier, Redland's chief executive, said Steetley was "boxed in" with low interest cover and an estimated uncovered dividend for 1991 and 1992.

David Donne, Steetley chairman, said no account of the Redland bid had been taken when the 1991 dividend payment was recommended.

Mr Donne urged shareholders to stop Redland acquiring the company at a price based on cyclically depressed profits, which failed to take into account an "excellent financial record, valuable mineral base and longer-term profits".

Steetley will seek to adjourn, until February 24, Wednesday's extraordinary meeting called to approve the merger of its building materials interests in a joint venture with Tarmac.

T&L to help chief buy house

BY ROSS TIEMAN

TATE & Lyle, the foods group best known for its contribution to the icing on everybody's cake, is asking shareholders' consent to assist the purchase of a house worth up to £1 million by Stephen Brown, its managing director.

In a special resolution to approve Mr Brown's contract at this month's annual meeting in London, Tate says it intends to fund up to 70 per cent of the cost of a home for Mr Brown, who would have the option to buy out the company share, at market valuation.

Although he was born in Britain, Mr Brown owns a

house in America. The 52-year-old managing director was recruited from Alcan, the Canadian aluminium company, last spring.

Shareholders are also being asked to approve a remuneration package including the payment of three years' salary to Mr Brown for loss of office. In his first year with Tate, he is believed to have earned a salary of about £200,000. He steps up to become chief executive in April, leaving Neil Shaw, the present chairman and chief executive, with only the chairman's role.

In the year to September 1991, Mr Shaw took a pay

cut of £132,000, to £436,000, despite a £16.6 million increase in Tate's pre-tax profits, to £234.6 million.

A spokesman for Tate said the company had agreed to help Mr Brown buy a house because he was being asked to move to a new country to take up his post. The spokesman said: "It won't be a bedsit in Balham. It will probably be a very nice house in Chelsea, or somewhere like that, but it won't cost anything like £1 million. My guess is that we are talking about £200,000 or £300,000 from the company."

Business letters, page 25

STEETLEY

Steetley's rejection
of
Redland's bid
is available now

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A freephone number is available carrying a message
from Steetley's Chairman David Donne.

0800 66 66 99

The Directors of Steetley plc accept responsibility for the information contained in this advertisement and in the related resolution from the Chairman. In the event of the resolution being adopted, the Directors will have taken all reasonable steps to ensure that such is the case. The "Steetley" and "Tarmac" names and the recorded message from the Chairman are in accordance with the facts and figures set out in the prospectus. The prospectus is available from the Company Secretary, Steetley plc, 58 Watling Street, Rugby, CV21 2UT. The prospectus is available in the languages of the European Union.

Steetley

Chemical industry sceptical about timing of upturn

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S chemical industry will see only a slow recovery towards the end of this year, chemical industry leaders will be told this week, in a further example of the continuing impact of the recession.

The unpublished, gloomy forecasts are likely to be significant for British industry overall. Chemicals form Britain's third-largest manufacturing industry, and British manufacturing's leading export earner.

John Major, the prime minister, and Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, claim that economic recovery is already under way, but forecasts about the feedstock chemical industry, to be announced this week, will be much more sceptical about the timing and extent of any turnaround in the economy.

Figures to be presented on Wednesday to leaders of the



Freeman: revising down

British chemical industry at the annual business outlook conference in London, organised by the Chemical Industry's Association, the industry's umbrella body, will suggest an overall growth in chemical output of only 2.5 per cent this year.

Further scepticism about the economy since these estimates were made by the CIA towards the end of last year, may lead Richard Freeman, chairman of the CIA's economic appraisal committee, and also ICI's chief economist, to revise downward the output estimates still further. The estimates are in line with statements from Sir Denys Henderson, ICI chairman, who said last week he saw no sign of an early pick-up in the industry.

While the chemical industry expects to see some recovery this year, industry economists believe it will be slow, and will only come towards the end of the year.

Figures to be presented to the CIA conference will also confirm the industry had a poor year in 1991. Output was broadly flat, in line with the industry's forecasts 12

months ago, though chemicals did see some improvement in the second half, bolstered by the pharmaceuticals sector, its star performer. In contrast, sectors such as organic chemicals and fertilisers continued to perform badly.

Employment in the industry has fallen more sharply than was forecast, the figures will show.

Employment was expected to fall about 2 per cent, to about 310,000, but, in fact, declined 3 per cent. Prices in the industry rose about 5 per cent, as forecast.

The most worrying figures for ministers and the industry are likely to be the statistics on investment, which are much worse than had been forecast.

A year ago, the chemical industry estimated that investment would be cut about 10 per cent. Given the heavy and long-term investment of the chemical industry, this raised fears of a large-scale cut in manufacturing investment overall.

The conference will be told that investment has fallen in the industry by half as much again as forecast — 15 per cent overall — confirming how hard the recession has hit major manufacturers' ability to invest and casting doubts on the ability of chemicals and manufacturing to recover quickly when there is an economic upturn.

Mr Freeman is also expected to criticise the standard of government statistics on the performance of the chemical industry, though the industry acknowledges that the problems caused by what it sees as a poor standard of government data may be eased by higher-level EC statistical requirements.



Building a future: John Ritblat is incorporating the seven-year partnership

Conrad Ritblat to incorporate

By MATTHEW BOND

CONRAD Ritblat, the property surveying partnership headed by John Ritblat, is to incorporate and become a limited company.

The move comes seven years after the partners bought the practice from British Land, the property group that Mr Ritblat chairs, and more than 30 years after Mr Ritblat helped found the agency.

Mr Ritblat will remain senior partner of Conrad Ritblat and will continue to play an active role.

"Incorporation is a key step in the development of a forward looking commercial practice appropriate to the 1990s. We are all delighted

with this advance which will mean that we can continue to improve the quality and scope of our services to clients," he said.

In the middle Eighties, the decision to incorporate a commercial property practice was often the first step towards becoming a publicly quoted company. But with so many of the firms that pursued that route now experiencing difficulties, flotation is definitely not on Conrad Ritblat's corporate agenda.

David Pickard, chief executive, said: "Personally, I like it the way we have got it. It's all our own. We won't be raising any new money for the very simple reason that we don't

need any new money. What this change provides is a management structure that will allow everyone to grow, particularly some of our younger people. It will reward people and keep them committed."

Despite his enthusiasm for the new management structure, Mr Pickard is realistic about the problems still facing the property industry: "I think it is going to be very hard," he said. "This year could be every bit as hard as last year. You've only got to look out of the window to see agents' boards up everywhere. Instructions are coming in, but it's turning them into fees that is difficult."

Export workers invited to join travel contest

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

WORKERS at exporting companies can send themselves abroad on holiday in a competition organised by the Department of Trade and Industry and National Westminster Bank.

Employers could also benefit as jetsetting staff visit overseas customers and return with valuable information to improve the quality of their

company's product or service. All non-managerial staff involved in the production of export goods or services can take part and winners will be awarded travel grants of up to £2,000 each to enable them to visit the customers of their choice.

Last year's winners visited such far-flung places as Hong Kong, Greece and Africa. Peter Wanstall, managing director of JPW Loudspeakers,

of Plymouth, whose employee Spencer Kingdom visited markets in Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Los Angeles, said: "All of our export customers are well established with us and their names are familiar to all our employees on the factory floor. The travel award enabled one of our longest-serving employees to put a face to their names."

Mr Kingdom said: "My

three-week trip has enabled me to travel, and given me a far greater understanding of the running of our business and overseas sales."

Fellow globetrotter Kevin Gardner, production foreman at Micron Sprayers in Herefordshire, described his visit to Mali as "the trip of a lifetime".

The closing date for entries is February 28, with 15 awards available.

SMALLER COMPANIES

Fairey shrugs off recession

SHARES in Fairey Group, now at 304p, have come off a 12-month high of 325p but should be considered a core holding among small engineering companies.

Analysts expect this specialist engineer, which has interests in electronics, aerospace and defence, to maintain profits at just under £14 million before tax in the year just ended (£14.6 million).

This represents a considerable achievement for a company operating in sectors that have been severely depressed during the recession. The situation was not helped by the government's decision to cancel the eighth batch of Tornado aircraft, which has adversely affected Fairey's aerospace business.

The company, however, moved swiftly in response to this setback, relocating the aerospace and defence business from west London to Staffordshire, and selling the vacant property for £9 million, a disposal completed just ahead of the year end. The restructuring was master-

mindful by John Poulter, the former group managing director who became chief executive on January 1.

At the interim stage, the electronics and aerospace divisions made operating profits marginally higher than in the previous year but filtration and specialist ceramics slipped, mainly because of lower demand for ceramic cores for aero-engine blades, particularly from Rolls-Royce. Some recovery in the division is expected in the second half.

The company boasted net cash of £9.8 million at the half year, leaving it well placed to fund an upturn in demand and to make acquisitions. Lower interest rates and the £11.5 million (£6.2 million) acquisition of LaserMike from Buzel will partly offset the benefit of the property disposal and a reduction in interest receivable will account for the small reduction in profits at the year end. At 304p the shares trade on a prospective p/e of under 12, an undemanding rating.

MARTIN BARROW

Baltic states on road to economic freedom

A new highways project could radically improve the Baltic states' trading links with Europe, Colin Narbrough reports

ESTONIA, Latvia and Lithuania are reinforcing their independence from the former Soviet Union with a highway project, Via Baltica, that ends the focus on Moscow and creates a north-south axis linking the Baltic states directly to central and western Europe.

The project could cost up to £1.5 billion if proposals for a western European standard motorway from Tallinn, the Estonian capital, to the Polish-Lithuanian border are approved by the Baltic states.

Infrastructure improvements are crucial first steps for the decrepit economies of the collapsed Soviet empire. The Via Baltica can, however, also be seen as part of the competition between the Baltic states' western neighbours, the Scandinavians and Germans, for influence in an emerging market of 8 million people.

In the inter-war years, before the Hitler-Stalin pact that handed the Baltic states to the Soviet Union, Germany was the dominant economic and political power in the Baltic, a position Germany is likely to seek to re-establish when it has coped with reunification. But the Nordic countries have been quick to

assert their interest in the development of the Baltic states. The Via Baltica is a Finnish idea, dating from 1984.

Improving road links south from Estonia provides Finnish industry with a potentially important alternative to the traditional north-south route via Sweden and Denmark. The sea crossing between Helsinki and Tallinn is far shorter than crossings between Finland and Sweden.

Greater St Petersburg, a region of 6 million people, is also interested in the Via Baltica. Joining St Petersburg to the highway would give increased economic justification for investment in the route.

Matti Miettinen, co-ordinator of the Via Baltica project, is managing director of Viatsys, part of Viatek, the infrastructure planners responsible for Finland's motorway network. Viatek, Lemminkäinen, the construction group, and Neste, the state-owned oil and chemicals corporation, have been the driving forces behind the scheme.

Neste has agreed to a joint venture with the Estonians to build an oil terminal in Estonia next summer. Nynäs Petroleum, the Swedish company, is already building a bitumen



terminal in Estonia to supply the Baltic states' road network, including the Via Baltica, with surfacing material.

Neste has opened three service stations in Estonia and plans ten more along the Via Baltica in 1992 to provide the high grade fuels needed by western motorists.

About £70 million is needed to bring the highway road surface, markings and signposts up to western standards. Mr Miettinen hopes work will start in earnest next summer. The ideal completion date for the initial phase of the project is

1993. Expanding the road into a motorway by 2010 would cost between £1 billion and £1.5 billion, depending on labour costs in the Baltic states. Infrastructure projects should be readily financed by international agencies, such as the World Bank, but a Baltic Investment Bank, underwritten by the Nordic states, is also planned.

Tauno Tuuseno, professor of eastern European economics at Glasgow Business School, believes the "natural historic pressure" of the Germans in the Baltic means an economic attack is inevitable. However, with Germany's costly unification process still in full swing, he sees an opportunity for the Nordic countries to establish a firm foothold in the Baltic states.

The Finns are already working on the roads. The Swedes developing hotels and other services. Professor Tuuseno's recent study on the Baltic area concludes that the infrastructure has primarily served to transit goods to and from the western areas of the former Soviet Union. While east-west routes, ports and airports have been improved, much of the local infrastructure has been underdeveloped.

The study also suggests, however, that the high standard of living, by the Soviet yardstick, in the Baltic states and geography point to great potential for economic development, if the appropriate infrastructure is in place.

Vauxhall warns of sales fall

THE chairman of Vauxhall called for urgent government action to increase demand for cars in Britain, as he gave warning that overseas sales, which soaked up surplus capacity during last year, were waning (Ross Tieman writes).

William Ebbert said that Vauxhall was the only large British car maker to avoid job losses last year because it had exported 102,000 cars. Overall, UK production by Vauxhall was just 5.2 per cent at 261,562 vehicles.

He said: "It is now becoming ever more critical that we see a stimulus to the UK economy to boost demand, and maintain full production."

Mr Ebbert said the export programme, which started in September 1990, had contributed £435 million to Britain's balance of payments by the end of last year.

THE TIMES

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Lessons dawn on retailers

This week brings tidings on the all-important Christmas trading period from a bevy of British retailers. Boots will put out a detailed statement giving percentage increases for the various divisions either today or tomorrow. Dixons will quantify the Santa factor when it announces its results on Wednesday. But the numbers the City is waiting for will come at the end of the week from Rainers Group, the retailer for whom Christmas is crucial, and this Christmas more than most. Speculation is mounting that unless the period was spectacularly good, which seems unlikely, Rainers will be forced into talks with its bankers on its loan covenants.

Time was when that would have spelt disaster for a company. Breaching covenants was akin to mugging your banker and a sign of financial indiscipline. These days it is relatively commonplace, particularly in the retail sector, and banks are resigned to renegotiating covenants especially where companies are not in need of a refinancing. Renegotiating covenants does not come cheaply, and it is not beyond the banks to ask for higher interest charges, management changes and enforced asset disposals in return for their continued backing.

Nor is 1992 likely to bring much cheer. It is beginning to dawn on the retail sector that when this recession is over, its problems may not be. A return to the boom days of the mid-Eighties may never happen. Retailers who relied on over-expansion and customers with high disposable incomes to disguise sloppy management and slack cost control have smartened up their act. Flair, one-man bands and retail magic are out. Management systems, cost controls and corporate governance are in. For shareholders, this is no bad thing. As signs are adjusted downwards and steady growth replaces overnight wonder stocks, the retail sector is beginning to realise that the worst thing that could happen to it would be a return to the boom days of the last decade.

Engineering woes

Engineering was once a very British skill. Nascent industrial giants Germany and Japan sent their brightest and best to Britain in the last century to study our engineering craft. Alas, our relative decline in the industry, even in the Eighties of this century, suggests a deep-seated malaise persists that is more than our industrial companies alone can cure. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, will probably be too distracted by his problems with the whole economy to give full attention to engineering when he chairs the National Economic Development Council on Wednesday.

After a return to modest surplus in trade in engineering last year, 1992 is expected to bring a return to deficit as we emerge from recession. The end to East-West confrontation is undermining the prospects for our star performer, aerospace. The rising sun of the car industry, by courtesy of Japan, has developed a pallor. Not only has output growth in British engineering underperformed and lost market share to its rivals abroad, it has also underperformed the rest of British industry and the economy in general since the Seventies, despite the biggest labour shakeout of any leading economy and dwindling union power. With managers free to manage, Britain's engineering industry, which still accounts for two fifths of our manufacturing output, has yet to deliver the goods. City short-termism and the government's macro-economic failures surely provide but a partial excuse.

Anatole Kaletsky, reflecting on the closeness of his economic forecasts for last year, predicts the 1992 outcome

If, like most people around the world these days, you feel that seasonal good cheer is hardly appropriate for the beginning of 1992, think back to the beginning of last year. Economic forecasters were vying with one another to predict a recession that would be deeper and longer than any that had gone before.

At that time, I felt the gloom was overdue, at least for the festive season, so I devoted this column to four "unfashionably cheerful predictions" for 1991: that oil prices would fall abruptly as soon as war began in Iraq; that capitalist reforms would continue in the Soviet Union even if the military intervened; that sterling would strengthen as interest rates were cut but fall back ahead of the election; and that the recession would end sooner than expected. The first three hit fairly near the mark and there was a good excuse for missing out the fourth, so I will repeat the exercise and take a stab at some guesses about 1992.

However, before examining these in greater detail, let me give my excuse for missing out on the recession forecast last year. I said the recession would prove shorter than "many pessimists were expecting" because "anti-recession policies would be applied sooner rather than later". The last phrase suggests a plea in mitigation that is of great relevance to the prospects for 1992. I assumed that Mr Major would have the commonsense to end the recession before it destroyed both his electoral prospects and many of the political and economic achievements of the 12 Tory years. In this, of course, I was wide of the mark. I did not expect the Chancellor to clobber the housing, motor and retail sectors in his Budget, and I failed to foresee the Treasury's eagerness to use the exchange-rate mechanism as an excuse for high interest rates, even when the pound was riding high in the system as it was in the summer and early autumn. It was the political misjudgment about the

government's intentions, rather than any mysterious economic disturbances connected with debt levels and house prices that thwarted my, and many other, predictions of recovery in 1991.

This leads us to the prospects for the year ahead. Is it possible that the government's lack of an instinct of self-preservation, to say nothing of its inability to make rational economic judgments, will continue throughout 1992? Fortunately, the answer is no.

By July, there really will be an election and if Mr Major does not bring the Treasury to its senses by then, the electorate and the financial market will see to it that Neil Kinnock does. Combining this observation with some elementary economics leads to the first forecast:
□ Short-term interest rates will fall to 7 or 8 per cent by the end of the year. The political case is clear. Even if Mr Major is not moved by the prospect of losing the election, Mr Kinnock will be by the need to consolidate his minority government and secure a working majority in a new election in 1993. To do this, he will need to end the stagnation in the economy. Given the terror in the electorate and the market about Labour's propensity to borrow and spend, monetary easing will be the safest option. It will also be the right policy for the economy. In every past economic cycle, interest rates have fallen to 8 per cent or less before recovery was fully

under way. To suppose that last year's recession could be succeeded by adequate growth while interest rates remained above 10 per cent was probably never realistic. For a new government, unfettered by the needs to justify the blunders of the past five years, the long-term argument for low interest rates should be even more compelling. If it is an overhang of debts that threatens economic growth, then cuts in interest rates are the rational response. If inadequate investment is the obstacle to Britain's prosperity and inter-

A further sharp fall in interest rates, combined with the stimulus to industry and employment from a lower exchange rate, should revive the housing market

national competitiveness, as Labour believes, low interest rates are again the answer. The Treasury's standard argument for continuing deflation - that monetary easing could actually raise long-term interest rates - will cut no ice. Long-term interest rates are unimportant in the British economy.
□ However, what about the ERM constraint on monetary policy and sterling? My second and third predictions are connected. The pound will fall against the yen and dollar. The one major currency that may provisionally turn out to be as weak as sterling is the mark. This is because

there is nothing wrong with the American economy (at least in the short term) that low interest rates and tax cuts cannot cure. Germany, by contrast, is on the brink of an economic and political emergency. At present exchange rates, American and Japanese exporters are also extraordinarily competitive against their rivals in Germany and the rest of Europe. As a result, America should soon be enjoying a strong industrially led recovery, while Germany's manufacturers will face a slump. If the market and the policy makers

there appears to be no escape, its monetary tightening is going to cause a severe recession in Germany and much of Europe in the final year of implementing the 1992 programme and at a time when Germany's bulging fiscal deficit desperately needs the relief of rapid growth. Yet the Bundesbank's policies will not succeed in deterring German trade unions from demanding higher pay. The average German's real pay rose only 0.8 per cent annually in the Eighties, compared with 2.7 per cent in the Seventies and 5.5 per cent in the previous decade. As a result, the share of wages in Germany's national income has fallen to the lowest level recorded in any major capitalist country in the past 30 years. The unions are now determined to turn the tables on their employers and the confusion over economic policy after reunification has created a leadership vacuum in Germany, which the Bundesbank's blustering is unlikely to fill. The bank's reputation will, therefore, be severely dented in the year ahead, whether it sticks to its guns and causes a recession and fiscal problem or cuts interest rates and loses its anti-inflationary credibility.
In the medium term, however, the Bundesbank's loss could be the European Community's gain. If German monetary policy forces the ERM into a realignment, the rest of Europe is likely to insist that this will be the last such shake-up among the currencies. It may also win a firm undertaking from the German government to lock exchange rates irrevocably, at least with those of other core countries in the ERM, from that point on. Instead of delaying monetary union, a realignment this year might

therefore, make it a virtual fait accompli.
□ My last prediction is more parochial. A further sharp fall in interest rates, combined with the stimulus to industry and employment from a lower exchange rate, should revive the housing market. It is illustrated in the chart.

House prices are now back to their normal post-recession levels relative to income. Another boom like the ones of 1972, 1979 and 1987 is nowhere in sight, but the price-to-income ratio should stabilise about a year after the end of the statistical recession, as it has in the past. It is worth noting that the latest housing cycle has not been unusual in terms of this key ratio between prices and income and there is no fundamental reason to suppose the market will suddenly begin to behave in an erratic or unprecedented way. Certainly, ERM membership should not adversely affect the economics of housing, because an overvalued currency generally diverts resources from manufacturing and exports to property and other domestic assets. The stock market, too, may end the year at about its present level relative to wages. In between, there are likely to be huge gyrations, perhaps echoing a run up in Wall Street as the American recovery gets going, followed by a 1987-style crash in the summer, after investors have thrown caution to the wind. For this column, however, the day of reckoning will be January 1, 1993.

Capitalism's unacceptable face

From Lt Col Anthony Drake Sir, I have recently received Tate & Lyle's annual report. Shareholders are asked to approve an agreement with Mr SR Brown. Mr Brown is the newly appointed group managing director and appears to have received remuneration in excess of £200,000 for 1991, and his contract provides for compensation of three times this in the event of premature termination. The resolution we are asked to approve provides for a residence to be purchased for Mr Brown up to a value of £1m, of which Mr Brown will provide at least 30 per cent. I consider that the terms of Mr Brown's

contract are quite generous enough and I see no reason to help him buy a home as well, let alone one worth £1m. I regard this sort of greed as the totally unacceptable face of capitalism. I urge the directors of Tate & Lyle to withdraw this resolution from the agm, and I urge shareholders to register their disapproval by completing their forms of proxy against this resolution, No 5 on the card. Yours faithfully, LT COL ANTHONY DRAKE, Musbury Barton, Axminster, Devon.

IOD backed industrial relations reforms

From Mr Peter Morgan Sir, To avoid any confusion arising from your headline (TUC has allies among directors, December 27) I would like to make it clear that the Institute of Directors actually gave its full support to the further reform of industrial relations law outlined in the Green Paper published by Mr Michael Howard, Secretary of State for Employment. The reforms introduced during the 1980s made a significant contribution to the more stable industrial relations climate which the UK now enjoys and were a key

element in attracting inward investment to Britain. The IOD strongly advocated these reforms and believes the proposals in the Green Paper are a logical next step, offering greater protection for employers, members of trades unions and the general public. Indeed, we urged the government to go further and establish legally binding procedural agreements in essential public services to minimise the risk of disruption in these services. Yours faithfully, PETER MORGAN, Institute of Directors, 116 Pall Mall, SW1.

Starting over

From Mr Aldo Habib Sir, I read with interest the article by Peter Victor (January 1) regarding new companies being formed in spite of record numbers of firms folding. I am wondering if Dun & Bradstreet are able to list the new companies being formed by people whose companies went into liq-

uidation previously, and how many times. I feel sorry for the many creditors and others involved who have lost money when ruthless company directors can start new companies after going into liquidation, often more than once. Yours faithfully, ALDO HABIB, 64 The Ridgeway, NW11.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Jordan in the wings

MICHAEL Jordan, chairman and senior partner of Cork Gully and, as such, king of the insolvency men, is unable to become involved in the carving up of any facet of the late Robert Maxwell's empire because Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, Cork Gully's parent, was the auditor. Jordan - who draws the philosophical conclusion: "It takes a big man to make a big mess, little men make small messes" - has had to follow the saga from the wings, and is now calling for legislation to ensure that pension funds are independently managed. "Pension funds should be sacrosanct," he says. "They should not be within a million miles of the management of a company. They should be independently managed and not a penny should go into the company." While the government is pontificating on such legislation, he believes it should also do something to safeguard deposits from members of the public as down payments for goods, not yet received. "There is no legislation currently dealing with deposits and I am concerned that we might see another massive failure where people who have paid deposits, for furniture or whatever, lose their money. The widows and orphans really must be protected."

Star quality

SUSANNAH Simons, presenter of Channel 4's *Business Daily* programme, a director of Business Television, its parent company, and a talented actress to boot,



was quick to recognise the thespian qualities of Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Bank of England Governor, when she interviewed him last week. A natural in front of the television cameras, happy to pose either at his desk or striding along the corridors of the his Threadneedle Street offices, the Governor revealed that in the Fifties, in his days as a practising barrister, he acted as an adviser to a film made by Roy Boulting, starring Terry Thomas. The film demonstrated how barristers should dress for work and, in particular, how they should wear their wigs.

A DELIBERATE error? A sign in the window of a shop in Bristol, specialising in bridal gowns, reads: "A wedding is a day... marriage is a lifetime."

Life begins at 40 LYNN Ruddick, who celebrates her 40th birthday on Friday, will start her 41st year with a new job. After more than 11 years with Phillips & Drew Fund Management, latterly as a director and responsible for client relation-

ships, Ruddick has resigned. With effect from January 14, she will become a director of Mercury Asset Management, the fund management arm of SG Warburg, which, with total assets of £40 billion, is the biggest pension fund manager in Britain and twice the size of PDM, its closest rival. Ruddick, a qualified accountant, who continues to put her training to good use as the honorary treasurer of Signa, a campaign for deaf people, will be part of MAM's expanding marketing team, led by Colin Clark. Her brief will be to market its services to UK pension funds and consultants.

Loveless mourned

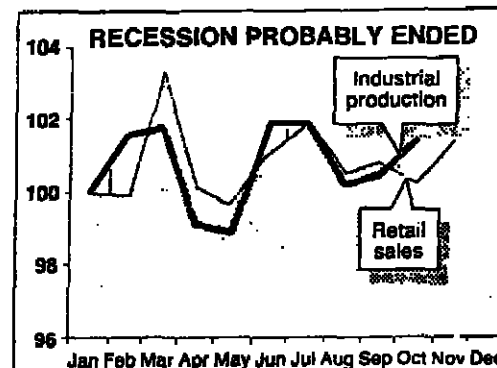
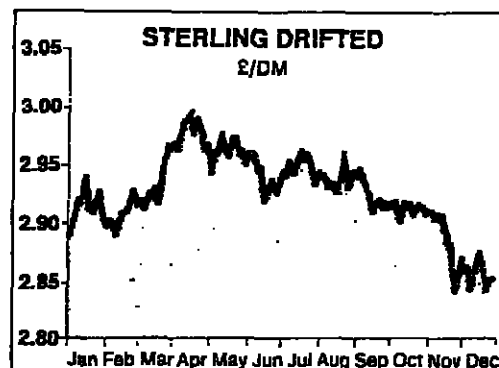
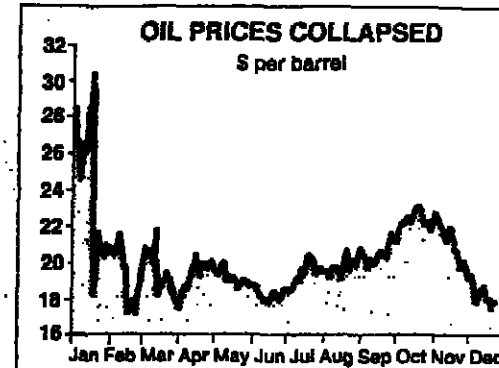
MARKET watchers who follow South African shares are mourning the loss of Albert Loveless, a popular and respected analyst who died on Friday, aged 51, after a short illness. Loveless, who covered South African stocks for Smith New Court had been in hospital since late autumn. "Albert's Digger notes", as his South African circulars became known, were sought after in the Square Mile and he was frequently consulted by other City brokerages. Ray Davis, a director of Smith's international department, who worked with Loveless at Simon & Coates in the late Seventies and lured him to Smiths in 1984, says: "He always had plenty of time for everybody." Loveless will also be missed in his home community of Shirley, Croydon, where he did a great deal for the local church. He leaves a wife, Rita, and two daughters.

CAROL LEONARD

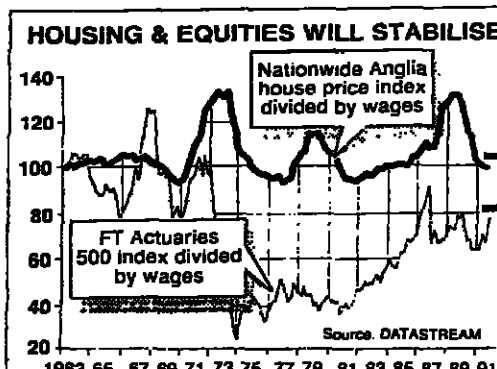
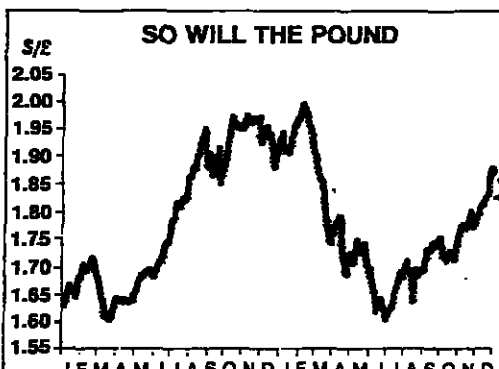
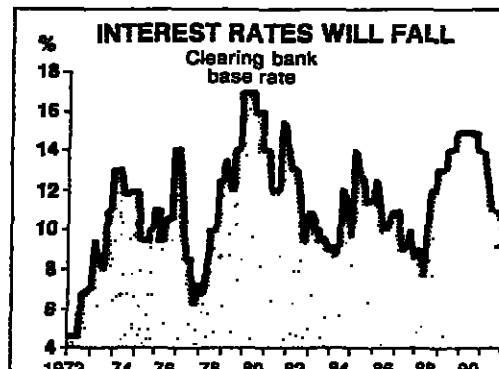
ECONOMIC VIEW

Clear case of political necessity will cut interest rates to 8%

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REPORTING THIS WEEK

Securicor expected to deliver smaller profits

Securicor Group, headed by Roger Wiggs, is expected to show a decline in full-year profits when it reports on Thursday. Kleinwort Benson is forecasting a pre-tax figure of £31.5 million compared with £31.9 million last time.

The security-to-parcels delivery group has been affected by depressed demand on the parcels delivery side because of the recession, and lower than expected profits from its 40 per cent stake in Cellnet, the cellular radio telephone operator.

Earnings per share are predicted to fall to 15.4p (22.5p), but the dividend should be held at 2.1p.

Security Services. Securicor's subsidiary, is likely to report final pre-tax profits of £19.8 million against £36.1 million, according to Kleinwort. Earnings per share are forecast at 12.1p (19.7p), but the dividend should be held at 4.1p.

TODAY

Interims: Carclo Engineering Group, Platinium.
Finals: AG Barr, Soundtrack.
Economic statistics: Major British banking groups' quarterly analysis of lending (September- November), London clearing certificates of deposit (Novem-

ber), monetary statistics (including bank and building society balance sheets) (November); balance of payments (November); sterling commercial paper (November).

TOMORROW

Interims: Hollis Group, Property Security Investment Trust.
Finals: Aberdeen Trust.
Economic statistics: Personal income, expenditure and savings (third quarter).

WEDNESDAY

Dixons announces its interim figures to mid-November. The electrical retailing chain, which owns Currys and Supasave, will also provide the City with its first real indication of whether the much hoped-for Christmas spending spree materialised.

Stanley Kalms, Dixons' chairman, issued a warning at September's annual meeting that there was no clear evidence of an upturn in the United Kingdom markets for consumer electronics and white goods. However, he is likely to be relatively optimistic about Christmas trading, despite unveiling lower first-half profits.

Nick Bubb, at Morgan Stanley, the American securities house, expects Dixons to

announce pre-tax profits of £19 million, down from £27 million last time. Both sets of figures include a £5 million writeback of warranty provisions. Market forecasts range from £13 million to £25 million. The dividend should be held at 1.6p.

The figures will reflect heavier losses in America and the depressed consumer spending on both sides of the Atlantic. On a brighter note, Dixons, where Currys now accounts for about 25 per cent of group sales, is expected to have benefited from an increased market share.

Silo, the group's American electrical retailing operation, is expected to suffer losses of between £9 million and £10 million, up from £2.3 million last time.

Profits from property are expected to be well down and further news is awaited on the group's European property operations, as well as the tax charge, which may rise to 30 per cent for the year.

Mr Bubb expects Christmas sales to have been "pretty pleasing" with camcorders and computer games thought to have been a "storming success". He is also optimistic

on longer term prospects, expecting benefits from products in the pipeline, such as interactive compact discs.

The balance sheet remains strong and the group is "extremely well geared" to economic recovery in Britain and America.

Hadleigh Industries Group, the automotive and engineering group headed by Tony Cookson, is expected to incur a small first-half loss. This compares with a taxable profit of £1.1 million last time. However, Hadleigh should be over the worst and County NatWest forecasts a full-year profit of £300,000 (£1.81 million). Universal Bulk Handling, the group's steel container manufacturing subsidiary, is understood to have continued to perform relatively well, and there should be signs of progress at A1.

Peter Caldwell, a motors analyst at BZW, expects a fairly flat performance from Reg Vardy, with interim pre-tax profits of the Wearside car dealer not likely to top last time's £2.1 million. However, Mr Caldwell says this will be a good performance compared with others in the

sector as the six months to October were "pretty traumatic" for the motor industry.

Attention will be on current and future prospects, although there are no signs that lower interest rates have fed through to higher demand.

Interims: Banks (Sidney C), Bepak, Dixons, Goode Durrant, Hadleigh Industries Group, Savills, Vardy (Reg), Williamson Tea Holdings.
Finals: Alexander Holdings, M & G Dual Trust.
Economic statistics: Overseas travel and tourism (October); advance energy statistics (November); cyclical indicators for the UK economy (October - final estimate).

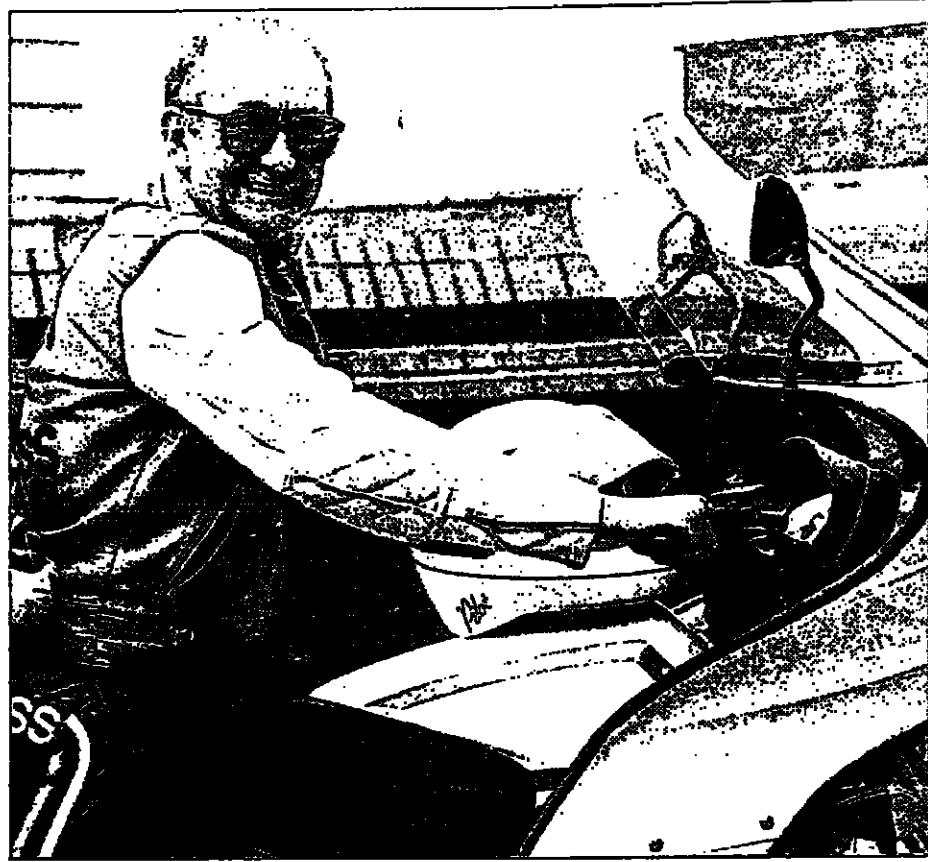
THURSDAY

Interims: Druck Holdings, Jones, Stroud (Holdings), Symonds Engineering.
Finals: Dewhurst, Securicor Group, Security Services, Tract.
Economic statistics: New vehicle registrations (November); housing starts and completions (November); house renovations (third quarter).

FRIDAY

Interims: British Bloodstock Agency, First Spanish Investment, Pope Group.
Finals: None announced.
Economic statistics: Usable steel production (December).

PHILIP PANGALOS



Steering through recession: Roger Wiggs is likely to maintain Securicor's dividend

Recovery could be spiked by banking unrest

The new year claims of economic recovery, from the prime minister, the Chancellor and Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, all ring hollow when contrasted with the rumbling crisis in the UK banking system. The crisis has played a big role in preventing economic recovery and is likely to continue to do so while interest rates remain high.

Its most obvious macro-economic manifestation is the sharp decline in bank lending and broad monetary growth, now 4.6 per cent and 4.9 per cent respectively (last three months annualised). Behind these macro figures lie many more concerning micro data from the banks themselves. Some analysts expect bad debt provisions totalling £5.4 billion by the UK's big four clearing banks in 1991, at least one of the four is paying a liquidating dividend.

The phase of mega-defaults, epitomised by names such as Polly Peck, is giving

the exchange-rate mechanism. Normally, a lowering of rates at this stage of the cycle would allow banks to widen the margin between the rates they pay on deposits and those they charge borrowers. This spread-widening initially dampens the stimulatory effect of rate cuts, since borrowers get little of the benefit, but it also implies a rebuilding of bank profitability. Other banks also provides the interest rate capital needed to finance an expansion of credit.

Last year, UK banks made progress in widening spreads, but not, apparently, enough to offset the losses from defaults. Those are estimated to have risen from 0.4 per cent of total loans in 1988 to 2.4 per cent in 1991. The ability of good quality corporate borrowers to by-pass the banks and access financial markets directly, cited by the Bank of England as a reason for optimism, worsens the problem, as it removes one of the most profitable classes of customers from the banks.

The conclusion is that either UK base rates come down substantially this year or there will be a prolonged period, probably lasting years, of anaemic growth in bank credit. That in turn will prevent a proper economic recovery. Does this mean sterling has to be devalued, or leave the ERM? Not necessarily. Indeed, that could make matters worse by removing discipline on wages and damaging credibility.

Two factors could come to the rescue. One is that German interest rates might fall sooner than is expected. German industry is preparing for strikes over the next few months, and some members of the ruling coalition are taking a tough line on public sector pay. There is a good chance that there will be many pay settlements about 5 per cent, enabling the Bundesbank to start lowering rates in late spring.

Second, in the right political climate, UK base rates could fall below German levels. That is possible, given the 6 per cent band and a credible commitment to move later to the narrow band at the current parity. If sterling were trading about (say) DM2.85, investors would be compensated for lower rates by the near-certainty of a currency appreciation.

This scenario, however, which could see base rates down to about 7.5 per cent and a very strong gilt market, is really only possible after the election. It would require either an independent central bank, or a government whose commitment to the ERM was beyond question - potentially a greater problem for a Labour government than a Tory one. The longer the election is delayed, the more apparent it will be that the banking crisis and political uncertainty are delaying recovery, and the less likely this rosy scenario will become.

GILES KEATING
Credit Suisse First Boston



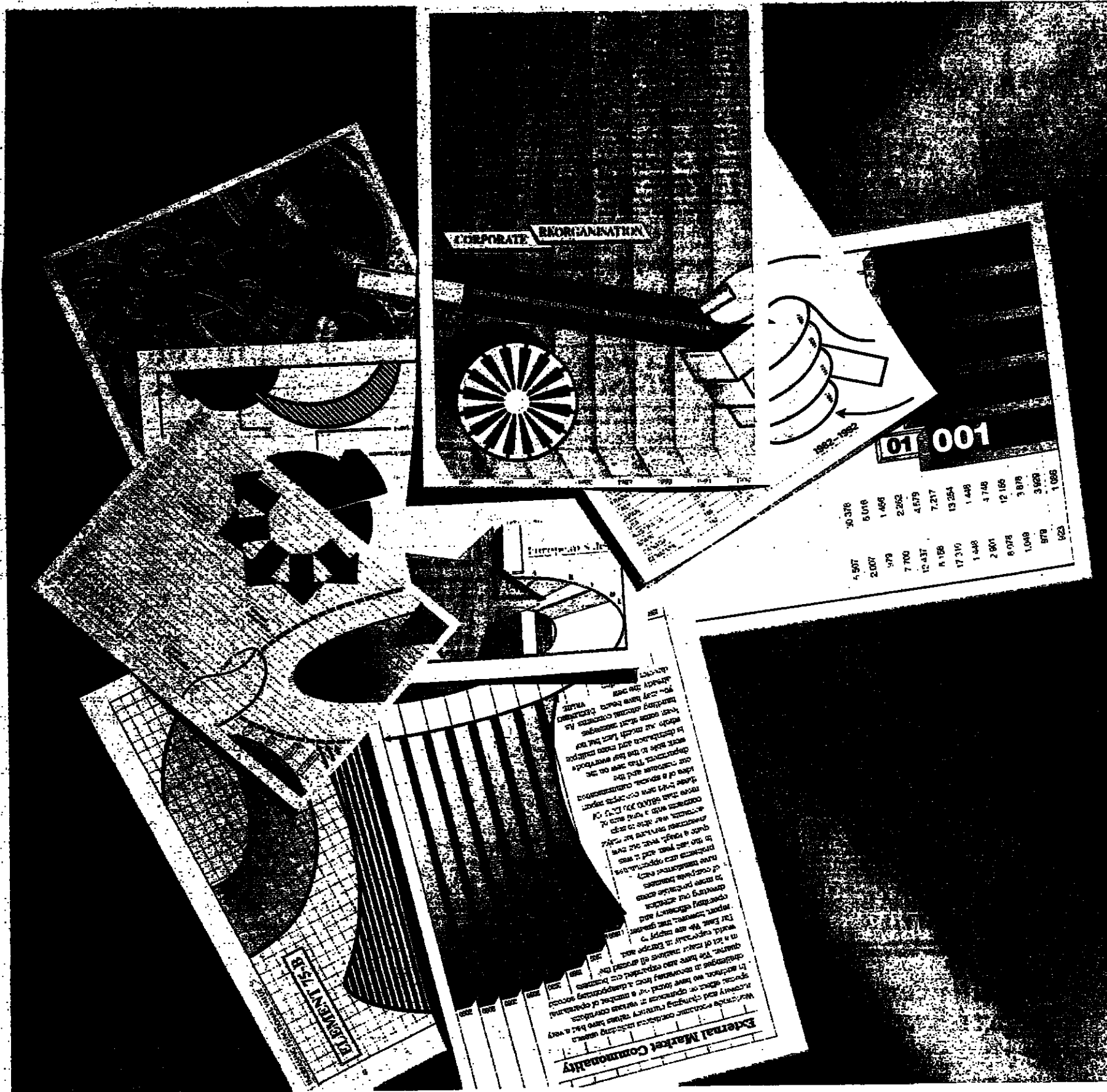
Leigh-Pemberton: hollow ring

way to the less dramatic, but quantitatively more important, losses on thousands of smaller loans. These problems strike at the morale of bank loan officers, who become ultra-cautious. They also eat into the growth, or even the level, of the banks' capital, when the banks have less than 12 months to comply with the 8 per cent capital-to-assets ratio demanded by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

A request last year by the chairman of one of the clearing banks for relaxation of these rules was rejected by the Bank of England. Since many foreign banks are suffering similar or worse difficulties, the result must be a severe constraint on the ability of the banking system to expand credit in the UK. The weakness of the housing market implies analogous difficulties for some building societies. It is not that the banks will be unable to meet loan demand in a recovery. Rather, the danger is that there will be no recovery because of the banks' inability to finance it.

Rising defaults, and a tightening of the banks' attitude to lending, are a normal part of the transmission mechanism of monetary policy. The problem is abnormally severe in the current cycle, partly because of the constraints of the BIS rules, and partly because interest rates are being held high by sterling's membership of

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BASKETBALL

Kingston's success frustrates officials

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

KINGSTON are about as popular among neutral basketball followers as Arsenal are in football terms, yet there were five Englishmen with extra cause for dismay when the Carlsberg League leaders reached yesterday's final of the World Invitation Club championships.

As soon as Kingston had completed their staggering recovery against New York All-Stars in the semi-final of the annual tournament, sponsored by Russell Athletic, at Crystal Palace, the five, all leading referees, knew that their chance of being involved in the final were gone.

According to the regulations laid down by Fiba, the sport's governing body, games must have referees from neutral countries, so Kingston's match with CSKA Moscow went ahead last night with a German, Michael Trumple, and a Swede, Lars Kjaar, in charge.

For two of the English quintet, Alan Richardson and Trevor Pountain, the blow was softened not only by the fact that they had refereed previous men's finals, but by overseas trips to which they can look forward. Richardson, aged 43, who controlled France's recent game against a European select in Paris, is off to Barcelona for the Spanish club's European Championships Cup due on Thursday against Caserta.

"Any referee worth his salt wants to do the final," he said.

"but I'm quite pleased with the Christmas I've had. I've had more than my fair share."

Pountain, also 43, has a double-header later this month in Belgium, for Oostend's Korac Cup tie against Limoges, followed by Mechelen's European Cup tie with Partizan Belgrade. "There is so much political manoeuvring with referees in basketball that if you are not philosophical you end up worrying about it," he said. "I'm a bit past worrying when I get my next nomination."

Like Richardson, who refereed yesterday's junior final, there was a bonus for Pountain, in the women's final between Solna and Tennessee, the third time he had controlled a game featuring the Americans. "If they win, they get to keep me," he said.

For the other English officials, Keith Dwan, Howard Cleaton and Gordon Cole, the compensations were less obvious. All three were involved on final day, but none in the game. All they can do is hope that the English clubs miss out in future. "It was a bit unexpected," Dwan said, "because I just didn't expect Kingston to reach the final. I was chuffed for them but not for myself."

RESULTS: Men's Quarter-final: Solna (Swe) 74 (Evans 22, Van Veldhuizen 10), CSKA Moscow 79 (Korodavskiy 22, Semiraj 10, Kjaar 10, Richardson 10, Pountain 10). Semi-final: Kingston (Eng) 71, New York All-Stars 68 (Harwood 20, Womack 10, Richardson 10, Pountain 10, Kjaar 10). Final: Kingston 80, CSKA Moscow 74 (Evans 22, Van Veldhuizen 10, CSKA Moscow 79 (Korodavskiy 22, Semiraj 10, Kjaar 10, Richardson 10, Pountain 10).

HOCKEY

Unicorns stage a form reversal

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN IN BARCELONA

AFTER a 6-1 defeat by El Cid on Saturday, Great Britain, playing under the name of Unicorns, recovered to defeat Real Club de Polo 4-1 in the Los Reyes tournament here yesterday.

Simon Nicklin was tried as a full back in the continuing process of finding a winning formula. But despite the pressure they exerted, Unicorns crossed over a goal down, the Spaniards having scored in the 22nd minute from a short corner converted by Fereira.

A much livelier second half transformed an embarrassing defeat into an ultimate triumph. Two goals by Kery put Unicorns right with the world. Garcia added the third almost on his own and the Ulsterman, Martin, converted the fifth short corner with a direct hit almost on time.

Saturday's drubbing by El Cid, effectively the Spanish national team, was the story of a side already chosen for

the Olympic Games excelling itself against another that was still on trial. Mahmood Bhatti scored for Unicorns.

Ignacio Escude scored three goals, two from short corners, and Iglesias added the remaining three. Even when the Spaniards were reduced to nine men, two having been sent off for rough play, Unicorns gained no advantage.

Kery did not play on Saturday nor did Williams, who was injured. Six players from the Great Britain squad had appeared for Hounslow on Saturday who beat Real Club de Polo 1-0.

Hounslow followed up yesterday with a 2-0 win over Pedralbes, the Spanish under-21 side. Gordon and Thompson scored their goals. Southgate's stubborn defence did well to hold El Cid goalless in the first half, but were eventually beaten 3-0.

Sutton Coldfield trounced Gimnasia y Esgrima of Argentina 9-0 for their third successive victory which secured the women's trophy. English Lions also made sure of the men's veterans' trophy after their third win in a row.

RESULTS: Men's Professional: Sutton Coldfield (Eng) 9-0, Gimnasia y Esgrima (Arg) 0-9. Women's Professional: Sutton Coldfield (Eng) 3-0, Gimnasia y Esgrima (Arg) 0-3. Men's Amateur: Sutton Coldfield (Eng) 2-0, Gimnasia y Esgrima (Arg) 0-2. Women's Amateur: Sutton Coldfield (Eng) 2-0, Gimnasia y Esgrima (Arg) 0-2.

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Champion style: Vreni Schneider on her way to the 38th World Cup win of her career yesterday

Tomba extends his lead as Italy take slalom double

Kranjska Gora: Alberto Tomba won his third World Cup slalom of the season yesterday, extending his lead in both the overall and slalom standings.

The day before, in the giant-slalom race here, Tomba had finished third, blaming a heavy cold and his over-cautious approach on the steep, icy course for defeat. But competing in his strongest discipline, and playing to a gallery packed with 5,000 adoring Italian fans, "La Bomba" put up a display to overwhelm the opposition.

After yesterday's first run, Tomba held a one-second advantage over second-placed Armin Bittner, of Germany, a huge lead in an event where mere hundredths often separate competitors. After another virtuoso run, Tomba extended his lead to 1.78sec.

In third place was the Norwegian, Finn Christian Jagge, who had beaten Tomba in the slalom at Madonna di Campiglio last time.

RESULTS: Giant slalom: 1. Tomba, 40.84sec; 2. Bittner, 42.02; 3. Jagge, 42.10. Slalom: 1. Tomba, 1:43.71; 2. Bittner, 1:44.12; 3. Jagge, 1:44.78.

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out. It was Tomba's fifth win of the season, and his third in five slaloms. He has finished second in both the other two.

"This will really make me keep my form until the Olympics next month," Tomba said.

Recovering from flu, Paul Accola, of Switzerland, finished fifth, one place behind Marc Girardelli, and so, after the scores from the weekend's racing were added together, remains second to Tomba in the overall World Cup standings.

Both men expect to close on Tomba after the downhill and super-giant slalom here, which the Italian will not ski.

On Saturday, the World Cup leader had had to give best to his team mate, Sergio Bergamelli, in the giant slalom.

Starting from 34th position, Bergamelli, 21, from Albano in Lombardy, won by 2.22sec after leading by more than a second in the first leg.

Hans Pieren, 30, who has been relegated to Switzerland's second team, finished second, with Tomba third.

It was enough for Tomba to maintain control of the giant-slalom section of the World Cup. Tomba showed no signs of disappointment over Bergamelli's win, hoisting his young compatriot on to his shoulders in triumph.

Pieren, fastest in the second leg, said: "This is the best performance in my 11 years in the World Cup. But it was impossible to do anything against Bergamelli."

"When I finished the first leg I couldn't believe my time and thought it was a mistake," Bergamelli, a customs officer whose father is a ski instructor, said.

"In the second leg I was determined not to lose that first place and put all I had into the run," (Reuters).

RESULTS: Giant slalom: 1. Bergamelli, 1:43.71; 2. Pieren, 1:44.12; 3. Accola, 1:44.78.

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Schneider secures third win

Oberstaufen: Vreni Schneider continued her superb build-up for the Olympics next month with her third World Cup skiing victory of the season yesterday.

The Swiss, aged 27, produced two blistering runs to secure her second giant-slalom triumph of the season. Deborah Compagnoni, of Italy, was second, and Carole Merle, of France, third.

Schneider, who had her first World Cup win in 1984, has dominated the early-season giant slalom and slalom events in which she will defend her Olympic titles in Albertville.

The Swiss needed all her experience on the thinly-covered Huendelse piste, where the lower slopes were packed with artificial snow.

Schneider was the best of the skiers to deal with drizzling rain which made the 47-gate course difficult in the first run. But when the weather cleared for the second leg three hours later, the Olympic champion held her line superbly to complete the second run faster for the 38th World Cup win of her career.

Officials later cancelled today's super-giant slalom because of a lack of snow on the Oberstaufen piste after yesterday's rain. (Reuters).

RESULTS: Giant slalom: 1. V. Schneider (Sui), 2:19.42; 2. D. Compagnoni (Ita), 2:20.65; 3. C. Merle (Fra), 2:21.22.

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RACING

Carrick Hill Lad back in cup picture

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

CARRICK HILL Lad was installed as a 25-1 shot for the Cheltenham Gold Cup yesterday only weeks after it was feared he would miss the whole season due to injury.

The remarkable recovery to a leg, hurt during last year's running of the championship chase, means Gordon Richards could be double-handed for the race in March as he intends entering Pat's Jester, impressive winner of the Newton Chase at Haydock on Saturday.

Carrick Hill Lad would have finished third behind Garrison Savannah in last season's Gold Cup, according to Timeform, had he not been pulled up due to sudden lameness in the Gold Cup.

Richards said yesterday: "He's on the way back. He's been cantering for a month and has done a lot of mad-work. The injury he suffered is not as serious as we feared."

"He got a slight leg in the Gold Cup last season. He was going like a winner at the time. The fence before Mark Dwyer pulled him up, Neale Doughty (rider of Twin Oaks) shouted to him 'Go on, you will win'."

Pat's Jester, a best-priced 20-1 for the Gold Cup, will be entered for the Queen Mother Champion Chase as well, but Richards believes he will need the longer trip.

"I would hope to get Carrick Hill Lad back on the track by the middle of February. Pat's Jester is pencilled in for the Timeform Chase (won last year by Carrick Hill Lad) at Haydock on February 29."

Twin Oaks loves Haydock and soft ground and led his eight rivals a merry dance in the Mitsubishi Shogun Trophy on Saturday.

The 12-year-old, promoted to as short as 14-1 favourite for the Martell Grand National at Aintree, will return to Haydock in two weeks' time for the Peter Marsh Chase.

Rinus and The Antares are also being prepared for a Grand National challenge.

The Victor Chandler Chase at Ascot this Saturday should see a mouth-watering clash between Waterloo Boy and Uncle Ernie.

These top-class two-mile chasers were due to have run against each other in the Castleford Chase over the Christmas holiday but Jimmy Fitzgerald was forced to pull out Uncle Ernie due to a cough.

Providing a blood test on the Arkle Trophy runner-up is satisfactory and the ground at Ascot is not too firm, he will take his chance against David Nicholson's nine-year-old, from whom he will be a useful 18lb.

The wholesale gamble on Martin Pipe's Balasani to win The Ladbrooke at Leopardstown on Saturday continued over the weekend, forcing Corals to cut his price to 9-2.

The sponsors still offer 5-1 but reported significant backing for Bank View, who made a promising return at Kempton on Boxing Day following a 21-month absence.

Nigel Tinkler's seven-year-old was on the brink of Champion Hurdle class two seasons ago and is now 16-1 after a big £2,000 each-way at 25-1.

Jungle Knife, third in the betting with Ladbrokes, is one of the plum rides Steve Smith Eccles will be forced to miss after breaking his ankle at Lingfield last week. He was also looking forward to riding Halkoppos at Wolverhampton today following his encouraging Kempton debut.

The veteran jockey is due to undergo further x-rays on Thursday but is determined to be back in action in time for Cheltenham. "It has mucked up the skiing holiday I was going to take when the weather closed in, but it will give me time to concentrate on my test-monial year," he said yesterday.

Maguire's treble raises claim query

BY RICHARD EVANS

ADRIAN Maguire will discover this morning if a 155-1 treble at Sandown on Saturday has cost him his conditional riding allowance.

The meteoric rise of the talented Irish jockey had statisticians searching form books yesterday as they attempted to discover if his final win on Notary-Nowell was the last in which he was entitled to a 3lb claim.

When Maguire left Sandown after his impressive display of riding, he was under the impression he needed one or two more victories before losing his conditional tag. However, he may have already reached 40 wins against senior opposition.

Dave Roberts, the jockey's agent, spent much of yesterday trying to sort out the statistical puzzle. The confusion stems, in part, from how many winners Maguire rode in professional races in Ireland before coming to Britain this autumn.

"It is borderline. I will ring the Jockey Club and Weatherbys tomorrow morning and get an official ruling before ringing the clerk of the scales at Lingfield where Adrian is riding," Roberts said yesterday.

Maguire is likely to have a big-race ride this Saturday for Jimmy Fitzgerald on either Native Mission in The Ladbrooke or Uncle Ernie in the Victor Chandler Chase.

Maguire's treble at Sandown yesterday was a 155-1 treble on Notary-Nowell, a 15-1 on Sandown and a 15-1 on Sandown.

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Maguire: contrasting tactics on three winners

day. "What we don't want to happen is for him to ride a winner using a 3lb claim to which he is not entitled."

Whatever his status, it will not diminish the demand for his services. Maguire was seen at his very best on Saturday as he used contrasting riding tactics for each of his victories. Enuse-H, On The Tiptoe and Notary-Nowell are all owned by Geoff Hubbard and handled by his private trainer, Ferdie Murphy.

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BADMINTON

BAE answers critics

THE Badminton Association of England (BAE) has responded to criticisms of its structure by Middlesex, which is inviting other counties to meet later this month and proposing a removal of many of the association's professional staff (Richard Eaton writes).

Middlesex apparently questioned the need for a chief executive, a director of coaching, a coaching manager or an events director, while the BAE says that this would return the sport to a "back garden social activity".

The rebellion has been caused partly by a sudden

increase in annual affiliation fees from £1.60 to £5.00 to try to raise revenue while offering increased services to members. However, affiliation dropped 20 per cent in 1991 as a result.

"We accept that there are faults and we are working on it, but without professional staff, we will return the sport to an age which no longer exists," Bill Andrew, the BAE chairman, said. "And although the affiliation package has caused a rumpus, it was backed by the council and the AGM, so those complaining were a party to the decision."

The Finn, Toni Nieminen, won his second huge leap of 111.5 metres, only half a metre short of the 16-year-old hit



Goldberger: shows way

The V-jumpers soar to success at Innsbruck

INNSBRUCK added to its sporting honours on Saturday by becoming the burial place for classical-style ski jumpers. The first six men in the Four Hills contest on the 90-metre high Bergisel hill were V-jumpers and to the delight of the 10,000 spectators five were Austrians.

The best traditional skis-together exponents could achieve was seventh place. Of the first 12, eight had converted since last season to the revolutionary V-technique, in which the body acts as a parachute between

Emperor Fountain to open account at second attempt

HALKOPOUS and **Emperor Fountain**, two above-average recruits from the Flat, can gain their first hurdles victories this afternoon at Wolverhampton and Lingfield Park respectively.

Emperor Fountain failed to win in five starts on the Flat for James Toller last year but ran some fine races on defeat when chasing home Tezom in the group three East of Sefton Stakes at Newmarket in the spring and when a close third to Mohican Girl in a listed race at Headquarters in the autumn.

Making his hurdling debut for Kath Walwyn at Wolverhampton on Boxing Day, Emperor Fountain was sent off 11-8 joint-favourite but, having been held up early, failed to get to grips with market rival Able Player and was allowed to come home in his own time, eventually finishing fifth.

As that was his first experience of hurdling and his first race of any kind for eight weeks, substantial improvement can be expected today and he may have too much pace for Woody Will and Landyap, who look the pick of the opposition in the Horley Maiden Hurdle.

Halkopoulos, winner of last year's Magnet Cup at York for Mark Tompkins, made his debut over hurdles the same afternoon at Kempton.

finishing eighth of 13 to the highly-regarded Travado, beaten 12 lengths.

Santary, a good winner at Wolverhampton on Boxing Day, boasts more solid hurdling form but Halkopoulos, in receipt of 7lb, should outclass John Mackie's six-year-old in the Dudley Novices' Hurdle.

Peter Niven, who rides Santary, may fare better on Snowfire Chap in the preceding Cement City Challenge Cup. Mary Reveley's consistent eight-year-old defied 12 stone in a similar race at Sedgfield on Boxing Day and runner-up Brig's Gazette franked the form with an eight-length victory at Catterick last Wednesday.

Mellor can continue revival with Way Of Life

For the day's best bet, though, Way Of Life is taken to continue Stan Mellor's recent revival by following up last week's victory in the Donnington Novices' Handicap Chase.

Lacking the pace to be effective over hurdles, Way Of Life looked a natural on his debut over the larger obstacles at Leicester on Wednesday and was value for far more than the three-and-a-half lengths by which he beat Golden Fare. Simon Earle again takes the ride and a 7lb penalty should not prevent the combination following up.

In the Bescot Novices' Chase, Martin Pipe's talented handicapper Lladest is strongly fancied to make a winning debut over fences while Comedy Spy can capitalise on his fitness advantage over Obie's Train in the second leg of the Bridgnorth National Hunt Novices' Hurdle.

A Southwell, Tristan's Comet can again show his liking for Fibresand by landing the Macbeth Handicap Hurdle.

The winner of two selling hurdles on the surface last winter, Jimmy Harris's five-year-old had an outing on the Flat here nine days ago — his first run for nine months — and should now be ready to do himself justice.

Furlong's £200,000 challenge

NOEL Furlong, underpinned by the fall of Destriero at Leopardstown over Christmas, has thrown down a challenge to another big-time Irish gambler, J.P. McManus (Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes).

McManus has been investing heavily in National Hunt horses recently and Furlong wants Destriero to run against anything that

McManus owns for a stake of £200,000.

Should it materialise, it would be a highlight of the season, but there could be difficulties in agreeing over the course, distance and weights of the match as, on form, Destriero looks a cut above any of the McManus horses.

A feature of the winter racing in Ireland has been the

success of juvenile hurdlers against their elders. This pattern was repeated in the £10,000 Slaney Hurdle at Naas on Saturday when two four-year-olds, Irish Peace and Kilcash, proved too good for the more mature runners.

Irish Peace beat his rival by four lengths but Liam Browne, the winning trainer, is unlikely to send Irish Peace to Cheltenham this season.

Red Rum's condition deteriorates again

THE condition of Red Rum, the triple Grand National winner, deteriorated yesterday.

Red Rum, suffering from a blocked artery, showed signs of improvement on Saturday but yesterday, Ginger McCain reported: "We thought he was quite perky but the vet has been here today and reports that his temperature is going up. "I am afraid he might just be running out of gas. We might have been kidding ourselves by thinking he was getting better. He is not distressed, he's just a bit weaker and is losing flesh."

The horse that leapt into the public's hearts and the record books with his Grand National performances in the 1970s is now 27 and McCain has indicated that he would not allow Red Rum to suffer needlessly.

Desert Orchid goes back home

DESERT Orchid left David Elsworth's yard for the final time yesterday to return "home" to Leicestershire and start a new life of retirement (Richard Evans writes).

The 13-year-old grey travelled from Whisbury to the stud of Jimmy Burridge, who bred him and is a part-owner, and arrived at rehome.

The horse's three owners will meet tomorrow to plan his future following the end of a glorious racing career which included winning the King George VI Chase four

times and the 1989 Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Desert Orchid spent his formative years in Burridge's paddocks before being sent to Elsworth in the autumn of 1982. "It will be very exciting having him back, although I am a bit apprehensive," Burridge said yesterday.

He is anxious that Desert Orchid is not bombarded by visits from his fans so that he can get used to a new lifestyle. "Hopefully he will quieten down and take to other activities as and when they come."

My primary task will be to get him into a new routine... Desert Orchid is sure to be in demand to appear at a variety of events and on behalf of various causes. The owners are known to be sympathetic to him attending equine events, ranging from race meetings to horse shows, and carrying out some work on behalf of charities.

"There is bound to be a commercial side but it is very much in the embryo stage and we will have to see what people want," Burridge said.

LINGFIELD PARK

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	RICHARD EVANS
12.30 Emperor Fountain.	12.30 Woody Will.	1.00 Change The Act.
1.00 Coo.	1.00 Change The Act.	3.00 Miami In Spring.
1.30 Okeoeste.	1.30 Okeoeste.	
2.00 Sunset And Vine.	2.00 Sunset And Vine.	
2.30 Mad Casanova.	2.30 Isor.	
3.00 Miami In Spring.	3.00 Miami In Spring.	
3.30 Secret Cottage.	3.30 Secret Cottage.	

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM BACK STRAIGHT)

12.30 HORLEY MAIDEN HURDLE (€1,684: 2m) (20 runners)
1. ALWAYS READY 88F (Mrs N Shields) R Lee 5-11-17. W McFarland 88
2. CHOR MASTER 11 (K Hagan) A Moore 5-11-17. J Clarke 7 88
3. EMPEROR FOUNTAIN 11 (SP) (Duke of Devonshire) Mrs F Welby 5-11-17. J Clarke 7 88
4. PERRY ROAD 253 (Dr S Alexander) M Robinson 5-11-17. J Clarke 7 88
5. BERRY FRED 9 (Mrs J Burridge) D Gressell 5-11-17. J Clarke 7 88
6. GOMLOW 145F (K Underwood) J Pearce 5-11-17. J Clarke 7 88
7. HELL OF A GUY 58F (SP) (K Hagan) A Moore 5-11-17. J Clarke 7 88
8. LANDYAP 11 (Mrs J Burridge) D Gressell 5-11-17. J Clarke 7 88
9. PREDESTINE 248F (D Knight) M Madgwick 7-11-17. J Clarke 7 88
10. STAR QUEST 58F (A Escuderie) J Jenkins 5-11-17. J Clarke 7 88
11. SMOKE 11 (Hagan) C Hagan 5-11-17. J Clarke 7 88
12. ANATROCCO 12 (K Hagan) C Hagan 5-11-17. J Clarke 7 88
13. CARLEISS 103 (F Williams) A Moore 5-11-17. J Clarke 7 88
14. POPPY CHARM 37 (Mrs M O'Shea) R Curtis 5-11-17. J Clarke 7 88
15. SELL OF A GUY 58F (SP) (K Hagan) A Moore 5-11-17. J Clarke 7 88
16. SISTER 32 (Dr S Alexander) M Robinson 5-11-17. J Clarke 7 88
17. TRIANGULAR 22 (Dr S Alexander) M Robinson 5-11-17. J Clarke 7 88
18. ABSSENT RELATIVE 78 (Mrs J Froom) Mrs B Sanders 4-10-14. A Maguire 2 81
19. CIPHER 103 (Dr S Alexander) M Robinson 5-11-17. J Clarke 7 88
20. KEEF IN TRIM 185F (Mrs C Lee) R Lee 4-10-14. A Maguire 2 81

BETTING: 4-5 Woody Will, 9-2 Absent Relative, 5-1 Emperor Fountain, Landyap, 7-1 Rospell, 12-1 D. Stefano, Star Quest, 16-1 Hell Of A Guy, 20-1 others.

1991: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING

FORM FOCUS

WILL 1115 to New York Rainbow (evens), a winner at Wolverhampton (2m, good), PERRY FRED 55 7m to Cheltenham (2m, good), LANDYAP 11 to Cheltenham (2m, good), SELL OF A GUY 58F (SP) to Cheltenham (2m, good), SISTER 32 to Cheltenham (2m, good), TRIANGULAR 22 to Cheltenham (2m, good), ABSSENT RELATIVE 78 to Cheltenham (2m, good), CIPHER 103 to Cheltenham (2m, good), KEEF IN TRIM 185F (Mrs C Lee) to Cheltenham (2m, good).

SEVENOAKS NOVICES CHASE (€1,941: 2m 4f) (10 runners)

1. F.P. 1115 to New York Rainbow (evens), a winner at Wolverhampton (2m, good), PERRY FRED 55 7m to Cheltenham (2m, good), LANDYAP 11 to Cheltenham (2m, good), SELL OF A GUY 58F (SP) to Cheltenham (2m, good), SISTER 32 to Cheltenham (2m, good), TRIANGULAR 22 to Cheltenham (2m, good), ABSSENT RELATIVE 78 to Cheltenham (2m, good), CIPHER 103 to Cheltenham (2m, good), KEEF IN TRIM 185F (Mrs C Lee) to Cheltenham (2m, good).

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